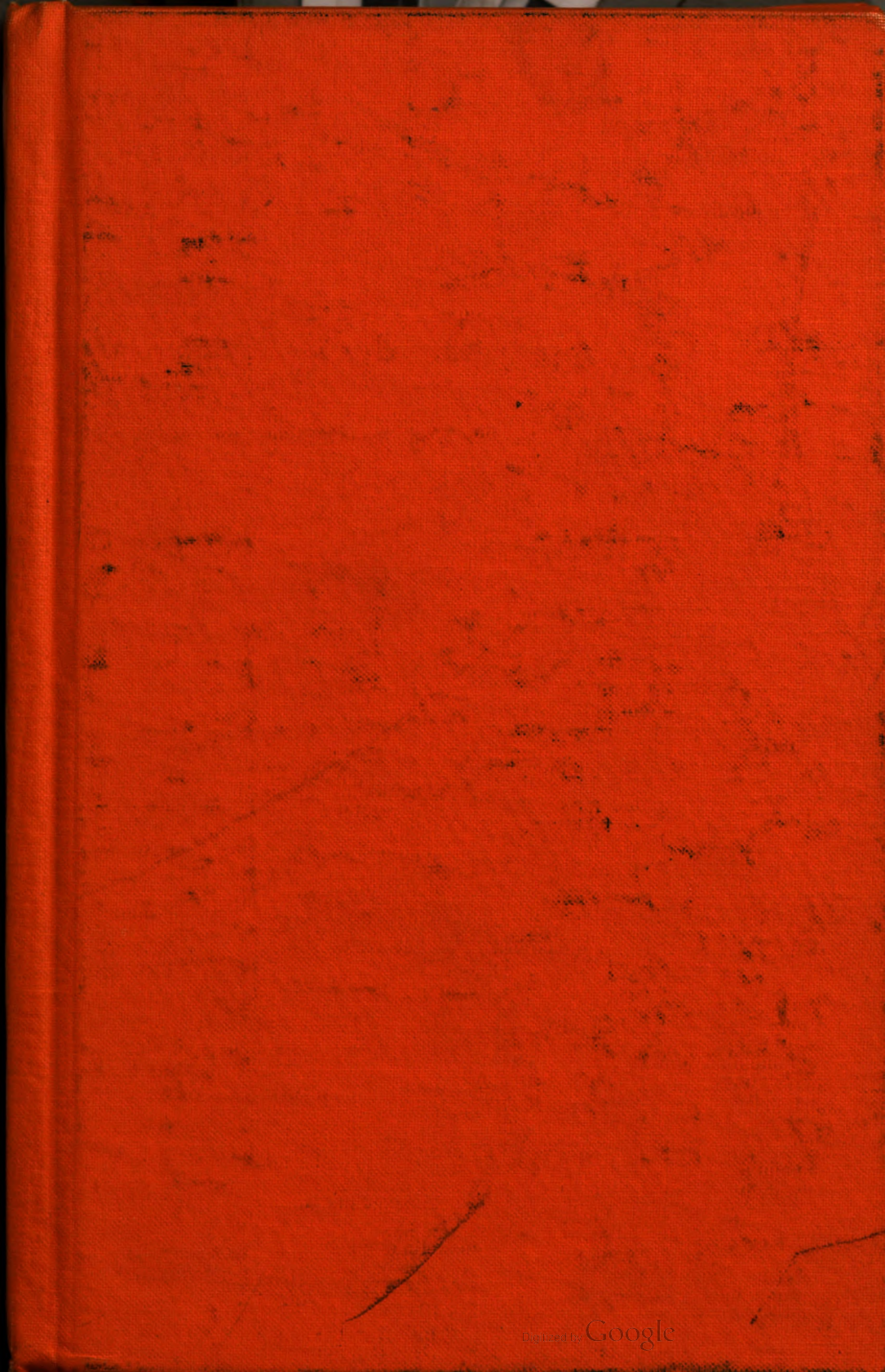

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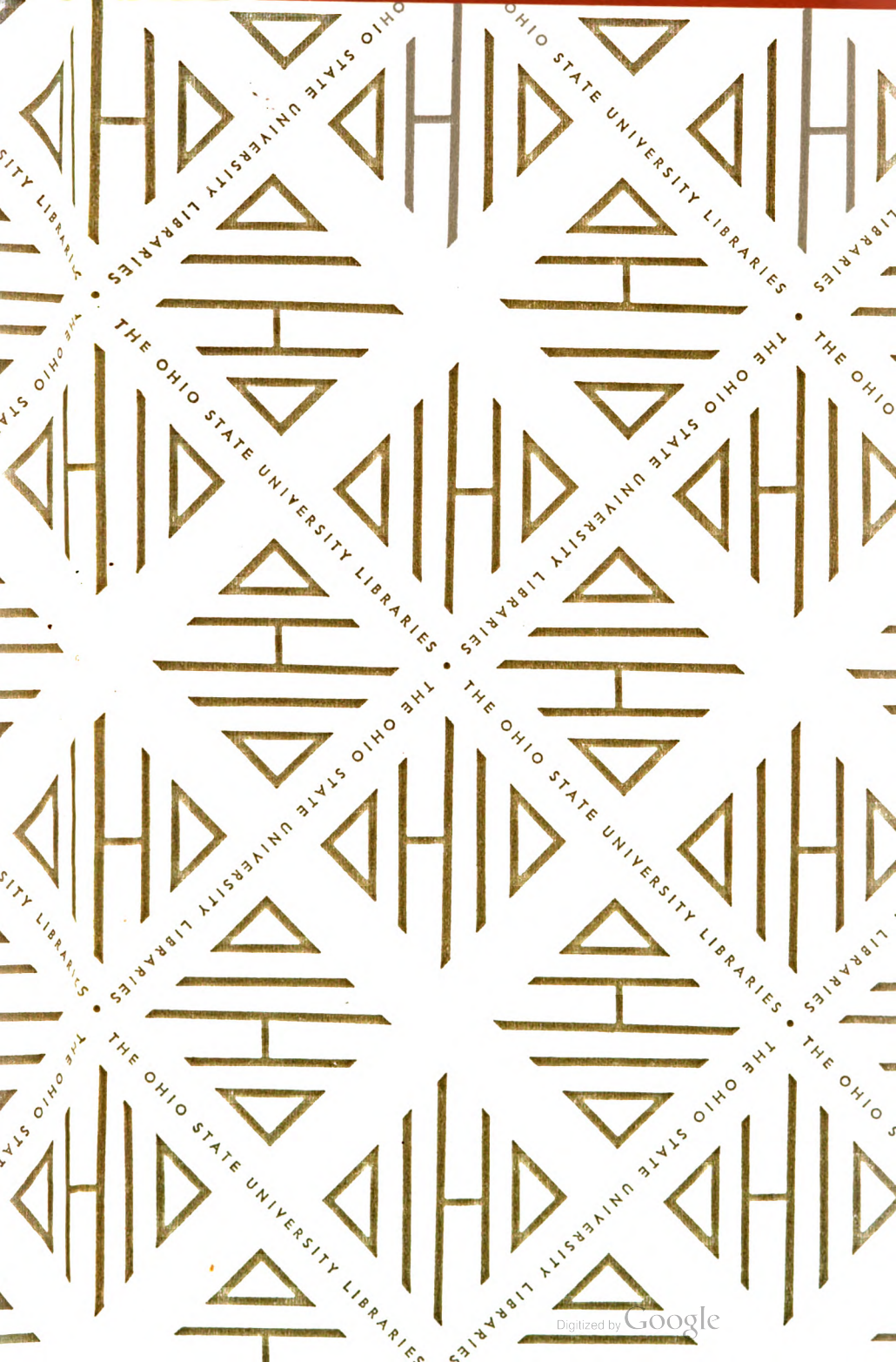
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British Virgin Islands 1957 and 1958

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LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1960

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Report for the years
1957 and 1958

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1960

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NOTE : All values are given in United States currency except where otherwise stated.

PART I

General Review of 1957 and 1958

ADMINISTRATION

SIR (then Mr.) ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., Chief Secretary, Northern Rhodesia, was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands towards the end of 1956. He arrived in Antigua in February, 1957, and took the Oath of Office in the Colony of the Virgin Islands at a meeting of the Legislative Council on 20th March, 1957. This was an historic occasion. His Excellency was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in Her Majesty's New Year Honours, 1958.

Mr. G. P. Allsebrook continued to administer the Government of the Colony. He went on leave in August, 1958, and returned in November for a further tour of duty of eighteen months on secondment from the Government of Tanganyika. During the Administrator's absence the Colony was administered by Mr. E. A. Evelyn, I.S.O.

POLITICAL

General elections were held in October, 1957. The members for the Tortola Eastern and Northern Districts were returned unopposed. Two candidates contested the election in the Tortola Western/Jost Van Dyke District and three in the Anegada/Virgin Gorda District and in both districts the serving members were defeated. Five candidates contested the two seats for the Tortola Central District and the serving members were returned. The new Legislative Council was inaugurated in November, 1957, and elected two new members as the Member for Trade and Production and the Member for Public Works and Communications on the Executive Council.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO

The relationship between the two groups of Virgin Islands continued on a friendly and satisfactory basis and an Inter-Virgin Islands Conference was held at Government House, Tortola, under the chairmanship of Mr. Walter Gordon, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands in January, 1957. Thereafter although relation-

ships continued to be excellent the Virgin Islands of the United States was unable to hold a further conference until the appointment of the new Governor, Mr. John David Merwin, a native Virgin Islander, who strongly supports the idea of co-operation between the groups. While he was acting Governor and before his inauguration, he proposed the immediate resumption of regular meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference and one was held in June, 1958, in St. Thomas. There have also been visits by members of the United States Virgin Islands Legislature and Government officers to the British Virgin Islands and relations have been very cordial.

Through the generosity of the Governor of Puerto Rico an angledozer was lent to the Government of the Colony for over a year and transported to the British Virgin Islands by the United States Navy for work on the new airfield. In November, 1958, by similar arrangements, a new angledozer was brought in and the borrowed one returned. Further courteous assistance was rendered by the Puerto Rico Government when through the services of the Water Resources Authority electrical technicians were made available to instal the 24-hour electricity system in Road Town.

THE ECONOMY

The Colony is within the economic orbit of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, principally the island of St. Thomas, and as a result economic conditions within the Colony are largely influenced or controlled by such external factors as wage rates, labour supply, commodity prices and market conditions generally.

There is still a considerable demand for labour required in St. Thomas by the tourist industry and this continued to be the principal source of wage employment and accounts in large measure for the new houses that were constructed, for investments in pasture and livestock development and for an increase in the standard of living since much of the money earned was returned to the Colony in one way or another.

The Government policy of devoting the bulk of substantial grants-in-aid and generous grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to development projects which will assist the basically agricultural economy of the islands and improve communications, thereby increasing trade and encouraging tourism, remains unchanged.

In the livestock industry—the backbone of the economy—definite steps forward have been made. There is a growing realisation of the importance of pasture management and of the need to plant and cultivate drought-resistant grasses. A severe drought in 1957 and an experiment in pasture-management conducted in 1957–58 emphasised this need. Credit facilities for improvement of pastures continued to be made available.

The most important step, however, was a survey of the agricultural position made by Mr. A. deK. Frampton, C.M.G., Agricultural Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, and Major H. C. Biggs, Marketing Organiser, and the preparation of a development plan for the Colony the implementation of which should have far reaching effects. Another visit which will have an effect on agricultural development was that of Mr. R. Marshall, Animal Health Adviser to the Secretary of State.

Whilst it is recognised that the tourist industry is so controlled by fluctuating external influences that it would clearly be unwise to rely on it as the sole means of development and that there are good prospects in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, the Colony is conscious of its substantial tourist potential and is making every effort to exploit it. These possibilities were enhanced by the construction of an airfield at Beef Island to accommodate small aircraft, and further impetus was added by the inauguration of a daily motor boat service between Tortola and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands by Sir Alan Cobham's Tortola Shipyard Limited early in 1958. The 32-ton, 78-passenger motor vessel *Youth of Tortola* now does the journey in two hours and as many as 28 tourists on a single voyage have taken advantage of a day trip to Tortola. Hotel accommodation has been provided by Fort Burt Hotel in Road Town and the Trellis Bay Club on Beef Island. Treasure Isle Hotel was opened on 31st December, 1958, and a third hotel in Road Town is nearing completion and there are plans for further expansion.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

In education the period under review was one of stock-taking. A committee appointed to review the education system of the Colony, to which reference was made in the last Biennial Report, submitted its recommendations in 1957. These were considered by the teachers' organisation, the Board of Education and the Government, and education policy for the next few years was determined. Mr. G. S. V. Petter, Educational Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare gave expert professional advice to the committee and during the time that policy was being formulated the Colony was fortunate enough to have had a visit from Sir Christopher Cox, K.C.M.G., Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State.

In the field of health there was a sharp increase in infant mortality and neonatal deaths. All concerned are aware of the pressing need for health education, particularly in child welfare and sanitation, and every effort is being made to train and to raise the general standard of proficiency of nurses for the districts and out-islands on whom this duty must devolve. Progress has, however, been made in the provision of improved hospital facilities. Sir Eric Pridie, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Office

and Sir Joseph Harkness, Medical Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, visited the Colony in October, 1957.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The Administrative Secretary attended Overseas Services Course "B" at Oxford University for the 1957-58 academic year and the Administrative Assistant attended a three-month course in Public Administration in Jamaica in 1958. An agricultural assistant returned from a two-year training course at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute, Trinidad, in 1957 and another was given a short course in pasture management in Jamaica in 1958. One teacher returned from a two-year training course at Erdiston College, Barbados and one from Spring Gardens College, Antigua in 1957 and two from Erdiston College in 1958. Owing to difficulty of replacement only one teacher was sent for training in the period under review.

The need for training of junior technical and clerical staff has been felt and plans are being made for in-service training. Training outside the Colony is arranged whenever the opportunity arises.

GENERAL

The Colony was the location for the film *Virgin Island* shot by Countryman Films Ltd. of London during the period September to November, 1957. The film was based on Robb White's book *Our Virgin Island* which had its setting on Marina Cay. The filming period was a noteworthy occasion. It brought several famous visitors to the Colony, greatly increased air traffic and put a considerable sum of money into circulation. It is hoped that the publicity which showing of the film will give to the Colony will be of some economic benefit. The producers have presented a 16 mm. copy of the film to the Government and plans are being made for a local gala "First Night" in aid of some local cause.

H.M.S. *Ulster* visited the Colony in August, 1957, H.M.S. *Delight* in February, 1958, and H.M.S. *Troubridge* with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Williams, on board, in July, 1958. The visit of H.M.S. *Delight* was marred by the death of a young frogman who died from oxygen poisoning while investigating a wreck off Salt Island. In response to a call by the Administrator the U.S. Navy Underwater Diving Team from St. Thomas sent 20 frogmen in a coastguard launch and they recovered the body at 60 feet on the following day. H.M.S. *Delight* remained in port for the funeral which was carried out in Road Town with full naval ceremony.

The Caribbean Commission, which had been meeting in St. Thomas, visited the British Virgin Islands in May, 1957, and a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation comprising

Mr. W. R. Blyton, M.P. and the Hon. Patrick Maitland, M.P. visited the Colony in May, 1958.

Other visitors included Sir Eric Hallinan, Chief Justice of the Federation of The West Indies, Mr. J. E. Marnham, C.M.G., M.C., T.D., and Mr. R. H. Hobden, D.F.C., of the West Indian Department, Colonial Office, and Brigadier Hotine, C.M.G., C.B.E., Director of Overseas Surveys.

A list of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress in 1957 and 1958 is given at Appendix I.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE last census was taken in 1946 when the official return was a population of 6,505 distributed as follows:

Tortola	.	.	.	.	5,421
Virgin Gorda	.	.	.	.	504
Anegada	.	.	.	.	274
Jost Van Dykes	.	.	.	.	238
Other Islands	.	.	.	.	68
TOTAL					6,505

The estimated population in 1955-58 was as follows:

1955	1956	1957	1958
7,760	7,760	7,760	7,600

Estimating the population of the Colony is extremely difficult, having regard to its mobility. To record with any accuracy the movements of people at the rate of between 200-300 a week, many of whom spend alternate months in the British Virgin Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States, would impose a burden beyond the financial resources of the Colony. Population estimates are worked out from the available data (vital statistics, record of persons admitted to the United States Virgin Islands on bond, estimate of population movement, etc.) and are checked against the known school population and the forecast of population trends in the area made by the 1946 Census Authorities. The results are believed to be as accurate as is possible to make them in the circumstances.

With the exception of some 30 white persons of European or American origin resident in the Colony, the population is of African extraction.

Vital statistics are given in Chapter 7.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE Colony is predominantly a community of small-scale farmers, and fishermen, in which the chief occupations are agriculture, principally livestock-raising, fishing and trading by the sloops and schooners that carry the commerce of the Colony as well as some inter-island commerce for neighbouring territories. Those who are engaged in these pursuits are largely, if not entirely, self-employed. There are also self-employed persons in other occupational categories, but those who find employment for wages may be classified in the following groups:

- (a) Building—constructional and repair work.
- (b) Repair and maintenance services—workshops and shipyards.
- (c) Clothing manufacture—tailors and dressmakers.
- (d) Transport services—road and water.
- (e) Commerce—shops and stores.
- (f) Industry—rum manufacture, blockmaking.
- (g) Public services—the civil service and the education service.
- (h) Personal services—domestic servants, waiters, bar tenders.

Not infrequently an islander who describes himself as a farmer is also a builder and perhaps a fisherman too. Indeed most fishermen are livestock-raisers and few builders subsist exclusively by their craft. There is little employment for wages outside the categories listed above and even in those categories, except for the public services, shop clerks and domestic servants, employment tends to be casual in character though the volume of such employment has been increasing for the past several years, due principally to the comparatively large amount of building of homes which is taking place in the Colony, the impact of development programmes and the expansion of the public services.

The Government is still the principal if not, any longer, the only, regular employer. There are no statistics of wage employment in the Colony but there were in 1958 180 persons employed in the civil and education services and an average of about 60 persons per week throughout 1957 and 1958 employed by Government departments on constructional work, road programmes and other types of work connected with the activities of the departments.

Social and economic changes over the past several years have greatly increased the dependence of the population on wage employment; with the growth of the tourist industry in the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the demand there for all types of labour at high wages, compared with those obtaining in the Colony, migration

for work has come to play an increasingly important part in the economies of the two groups of Virgin Islands, British and American. In the British Virgin Islands, the effect has been, on the one hand, to lessen the interest in agriculture, to lower productivity at a time when agricultural products command in these islands higher prices than ever before, and to increase the dependence of the Colony on the Virgin Islands of the United States as a field of employment opportunity; on the other hand, the Colony has benefited from maximum employment conditions, higher incomes and a rise in the standard of living.

Between 200 and 300 persons each week travel between the two groups of islands and of this number a high percentage are persons who take casual or regular employment in the American islands for short periods; others are visitors and shoppers. The number of workers recruited in the Colony under contract for employment for three months a year as cane cutters in St. Croix was 56 in 1957 and 24 in 1958. A simplified procedure or temporary admission to the Virgin Islands of the United States, which is applicable to the British Virgin Islands only, was adopted early in 1956 by the United States authorities, with a view to solving as far as possible the many difficulties and problems which had arisen in connection with the entry of migrants from the Colony in search of work in the American islands. Under this procedure, migrants are admitted for periods of up to one year for contract employment and enjoy wages and other conditions not less favourable than those applying to nationals of the U.S. islands. At the end of 1958 some 900 persons were still in the U.S. Virgin Islands, having been admitted on contract under this procedure.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The daily wage system continued to be the basis of remuneration for all types of workers, except persons employed in the public services, store clerks and domestic servants, who are paid on a monthly basis, and those who undertake contract or piece work. The normal working day is eight hours, and time and a half is paid for over-time, on Sundays and on public holidays. There is no paid holiday scheme for daily-paid workers.

The role of the Colony as a supplier of primary produce and labour to the Virgin Islands of the United States results in the wage rates in the British Virgin Islands being determined roughly by the rates paid in those islands. The economic relationship between the British Virgin Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States, principally St. Thomas, has been for many years roughly that of country to town, and wages in the British islands have tended to move in sympathy with those in the American islands. The wage rates in the British islands had been for many years roughly half the rate paid in the American islands, but with increased wages in St. Thomas, and the tendency towards urbanisation in the British

Virgin Islands, the wage ratio has been upset. In the event it became necessary to increase wages in the British Virgin Islands in 1955, 1956 and again in 1957 and there is still a definite upward trend. The following table shows the wage scale in 1956 and 1958.

Wage Scales, 1956 and 1958

Class of Worker	1956 daily wages 8-hour day		1958 daily wages 8-hour day	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c
MANUAL				
General unskilled	1 75	2 00	2 25	2 50
Semi-skilled	2 25	2 75	2 50	3 00
Skilled	3 00	4 50	3 25	4 50
Bulldozer operators	5 40	5 40	6 00	6 50
SUPERVISORY				
Foreman, semi-skilled	3 00	3 00	3 25	3 50
Foreman, skilled	5 00	6 00	5 00	7 00
	Monthly wages		Monthly wages	
PERSONAL SERVICE				
Domestic Servants.	12 00	20 00	14 00	25 00

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Virgin Islands Labour Ordinance, 1950, as amended, provides for the establishment of a Labour Department and the appointment of a Labour Commissioner. It has not been found necessary, however, to apply the provisions of the Labour Ordinance by appointing a Labour Commissioner to carry out the provisions of the law.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is no labour organisation in the Colony. Conditions and wages of Government employees are adjusted by official inquiry. The rates and other conditions which are fixed by the Government for daily-paid workers and paid by Government departments become in practice the basic rates for the Colony, although invariably the rates paid in private employment where work is casual, or not regular, are somewhat higher.

There were no labour disputes or strikes during the period under review.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

There is legislation in force for workmen's compensation. In the two years 1957 and 1958, there were three accidents in Government employment involving claims for compensation. No claims for compensation for accidents incurred while in private employment were

reported during the two years and so far as is ascertainable there were none, except perhaps for very minor injuries, which were settled by private agreement.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There are still no schemes for vocational training or apprenticeship. Action has not yet been taken on a proposal to establish a regular system of apprenticeship by the Public Works Department and the Tortola Shipyard Limited but full advantage is being taken of the facilities provided under the International Co-operation Administration training scheme in Puerto Rico. In 1957 there were three awards—one for automechanics, one for plumbing and one for radio. In 1958 there were seven—two for refrigeration, two for machine shop and one each for automechanics, diesel mechanics and plumbing.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE finances of this Colony are similar to those of other territories of the British Commonwealth which cannot produce from taxes enough to pay for recurrent services in addition to development and for some years the Government has been subsidized by the United Kingdom under a system of block grants. The United Kingdom Government's grant-in-aid represents the difference between estimated revenue and expenditure of the Colony and the following statement indicates the relative amounts of each over the last five years.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958 (Revised Estimates)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	79,528	87,548	111,297	161,877	126,395
Grant-in-aid	169,684	218,932	209,254	127,912	182,222

The relatively low revenue does not necessarily indicate that tax rates are low. In several instances they are not, but on the whole they may be regarded as being commensurate with the Colony's economy, the very small population, and the ability of the public to pay. The reason for this low yield from local taxation is for the most part attributable to the under-developed state of the island's agricultural economy—which is perforce agricultural because of the almost complete absence of minerals and lack of factors which could support industrialisation.

The success of Puerto Rico's "Operation Bootstrap" has been felt in this area, and it has given special stimulus to the boat-building industry. Boats owned by British Virgin Islanders ply between the British and American Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, bringing dollars into the Colony. What amounts each year to a considerable

sum is also brought in by Virgin Islanders who obtain employment in the American islands, where there is a rapidly expanding economy. The income from the export of livestock and fish is also worthy of mention. Very briefly, this is the general pattern of the financial situation in the Colony at present. During 1957 and 1958, the estimated values of imports were \$718,121 and \$664,823 and those of exports were \$150,589 and \$165,698, respectively. Import duty is the Colony's biggest revenue-earning item and, assessed at an average of 8 per cent on goods from Commonwealth sources and 12 per cent on other goods, brought in \$43,683 in 1957 and \$46,800 in 1958.

Colonial Development and Welfare grants by Her Majesty's Government have played a very great part in the Colony's development, financing schemes which otherwise could not have been undertaken and expenditure under these schemes, as well as under the grant-aided budget, is bringing growing prosperity from which Government is benefiting through increased incomes and imports.

Details of revenue and expenditure are set out below.

REVENUE

	1957 (Actual)	1958 (Revised Estimates)
	\$	\$
Import Duties . . .	49,687	52,988
Export Duties . . .	2,054	2,088
Excise Duties . . .	1,684	1,363
Income Tax . . .	8,294	6,441
Other Taxes, Licences, etc.	16,267	16,719
Fees of Court, etc. . .	15,182	17,467
Post Office . . .	54,430	16,429
Other . . .	12,822	12,900
	<hr/> \$160,420	<hr/> \$126,395

EXPENDITURE

	1957 (Actual)	1958 (Revised Estimates)
	\$	\$
Public Dept . . .	—	3,328
Pensions . . .	6,996	12,718
Governor . . .	2,757	2,801
Administration . . .	61,328	62,835
Treasury & Customs . . .	20,063	23,702
Agriculture . . .	24,388	26,850
Audit . . .	2,125	2,213
Education . . .	68,004	71,954
Judicial & Legal . . .	2,098	1,855
Medical & Health . . .	38,915	46,777
Police & Prison . . .	12,428	15,055
Post Office . . .	15,426	7,906
Public Works . . .	82,909	92,368
Other . . .	25,069	21,005
C.D. & W. Scheme . . .	100,068	100,000
	<hr/> \$462,574	<hr/> \$491,367
Public Debt . . .	Nil	65,835

Balances left unspent at the end of a year, other than under C.D. and W. Schemes, revert to Her Majesty's Government and the subsequent grant-in-aid is reduced accordingly.

It will be observed that there is expenditure in respect of His Excellency the Governor, who resides in Antigua. The Colony's contribution towards this and other services shared by all four Colonies of the Leewards is 4 per cent. This ratio is based on the population of the Colony vis-à-vis the populations of the other Leeward Islands Colonies.

During 1958 the Colony floated its first loan. This was to finance the Electricity, Cold Storage and Ice-Making Project and to provide the public in Road Town and the surrounding area with electricity on a 24-hour basis. Of a loan of \$90,720 the sum of \$65,835 was raised and of this, \$26,900 was subscribed in the British Virgin Islands itself.

The Colony's accounts are now kept entirely in United States currency, with the exception of some postal sub-accounts. Postage stamps, although marked in British West Indian currency, are sold at the equivalent in United States currency, for example, a 12c. B.W.I. stamp is sold for 7c. U.S.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

IN view of the fact that most of the Colony's trading is done with St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, United States currency is the *de facto* currency in which all financial and commercial transactions are effected. In 1958 authority was given to introduce legislation to make United States currency legal tender in the Colony, in addition to British and West Indian and Jamaican currencies which although legal tender are not, in fact, used at all.

The only bank in the British Virgin Islands is the Government Savings Bank, operated primarily to encourage savings. The rate of interest on deposits is 2½ per cent per annum and, up to September, 1958, the maximum deposit permitted was \$1,400. From September, 1958, this ceiling was, however, raised to \$4,200. The accounts of the Savings Bank are kept in United States dollars. The following statement indicates the number of depositors and the total deposits held each year including interest credited:

1954	472	\$ 57,314
1955	514	\$ 68,130
1956	581	\$ 96,090
1957	665	\$ 99,727
1958	711	\$112,214

Deposits in the Savings Bank are either kept in the Virgin Islands National Bank or invested by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations.

The facility of operating current accounts is still absent and Government is forced therefore to operate, for its own purposes, these accounts with the Virgin Islands National Bank in St. Thomas and the Royal Bank of Canada in Puerto Rico.

In the absence of any form of commercial bank, Government undertakes conversion of currencies in the case of revenue collections or in order to facilitate the transfer of funds from the sterling area. These transfers can only be undertaken with the approval of the Administrator. For very large amounts, however, the prior approval of the Secretary of State is also required.

The problem of obtaining credit for business purposes is still real. Instances of local British Virgin Islanders obtaining credit in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands have been few but these are increasing since it is being realised that the credit of British Virgin Islanders is sound.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE aggregate value of trade for each of the years 1957 and 1958 amounted respectively to \$868,969 and \$830,911.

The following table summarises the total trade of the Colony for each of the years 1955 to 1958:

Value of Trade, 1955-1958

	1955 \$	1956 \$	1957 \$	1958 \$
Imports	497,403	497,357	718,121	664,823
Domestic Exports	166,206	138,442	150,589	165,698
Re-exports (Foreign Produce)	1,890	3,357	259	390
Total Trade	665,499	639,156	868,969	830,911
Trade Balance (Adverse)	329,307	355,558	567,273	498,735

The Colony has had an adverse trade balance since 1951. This is offset by invisible income derived principally, and in the following order of importance, from remittances from British Virgin Islands workers gainfully employed in the Virgin Islands of the United States, grants-in-aid and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

Principal Imports and Exports

The principal commodities imported and exported during each of the years 1955 to 1958 are shown in the following tables:

Principal Imports, 1955-1958

Commodities	1955		1956		1957		1958	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
Butter (including substitutes)	\$ 5,098	20,220 lbs.	\$ 5,746	21,239 lbs.	\$ 6,636	24,246 lbs.	\$ 6,665	23,836 lbs.
Fish (all kinds)	3,149	22,533 lbs.	6,472	25,828 lbs.	5,197	18,726 lbs.	5,971	20,421 lbs.
Wheat Flour	55,097	859,460 lbs.	52,701	808,451 lbs.	61,431	993,720 lbs.	53,005	900,816 lbs.
Grain (all kinds)	15,133	196,293 lbs.	16,522	298,663 lbs.	18,366	231,955 lbs.	16,290	212,250 lbs.
Meat (all kinds)	10,999	35,334 lbs.	10,936	26,810 lbs.	12,081	28,737 lbs.	17,387	38,922 lbs.
Timber (un-manufactured)	26,052	207,455 ft.	29,329	219,541 ft.	43,293	262,300 ft.	35,771	242,991 ft.
Apparel	13,326	—	22,022	—	12,930	—	14,744	—
Boots and shoes	7,566	4,620 prs.	12,595	5,856 prs.	21,120	10,060 prs.	12,574	5,854 prs.
Cotton piece goods	6,959	27,612 yds.	7,317	17,051 yds.	9,544	20,392 yds.	6,501	14,883 yds.
Oils (Non-edible)	13,091	59,951 gal.	15,503	64,494 gal.	23,722	95,708 gal.	22,558	98,454 gal.
Sugar	30,379	586,094 lbs.	37,037	531,267 lbs.	37,830	632,498 lbs.	30,845	528,817 lbs.
Cement	—	—	—	—	24,164	2,468,834 lbs.	26,281	2,643,203 lbs.

Principal Exports, 1955-1958

Commodities	1955		1956		1957		1958	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
Livestock	\$ 102,877	2,832 No.	\$ 86,107	2,785 No.	\$ 108,966	3,783 No.	\$ 120,727	3,105 No.
Vegetables (all kinds)	5,416	—	7,201	—	4,101	—	6,918	—
Fish (fresh)	5,858	72,370 lbs.	8,051	50,518 lbs.	8,781	56,760 lbs.	7,147	37,285 lbs.
Fruits (fresh)	3,450	—	4,584	—	2,512	—	4,741	—
Charcoal	5,360	3,736 bbl.	4,962	3,320 bbl.	4,093	2,705 bbl.	4,858	2,466 bbl.

Direction of Trade

Particulars of the direction of the Colony's trade by countries and value for each of the years 1955 to 1958 are as follows:

Direction of Trade, 1955-1958

	1955			1956			1957			1958		
	Imports	Exports	% of Total Trade	Imports	Exports	% of Total Trade	Imports	Exports	% of Total Trade	Imports	Exports	% of Total Trade
	\$ '000	\$ '000		\$ '000	\$ '000		\$ '000	\$ '000		\$ '000	\$ '000	
United Kingdom	34	—	5.1	38	8	7.2	105	—	12.1	85	—	10.3
Canada	2	—	0.3	3	—	0.5	9	—	1.0	9	—	1.0
Other Commonwealth Countries	43	1	6.6	50	2	8.1	68	1	8	60	12	8.6
U.S.A. (principally Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands)	414	88	75.6	400	81	75.3	525	93	71.2	485	93	69.6
Other Foreign Countries	4	79	12.4	6	51	8.9	11	57	7.7	26	61	10.5

Livestock are the Colony's most valuable exports. Their numbers and destination in 1955-58 were as follows:

Livestock Exported, 1955-1958

Year	Destination	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Total
1955	St. Thomas	107	321	1,023	384	1,835
	French West Indies	1,047	—	—	—	1,047
	Leeward Islands	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL	1,154	321	1,023	384	2,882
1956	St. Thomas	319	281	1,145	419	2,164
	French West Indies	617	—	—	—	617
	Leeward Islands	2	2	—	—	4
	TOTAL	938	283	1,145	419	2,785
1957	St. Thomas	504	738	1,193	642	3,077
	French West Indies	706	—	—	—	706
	Leeward Islands	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL	1,210	738	1,193	642	3,783
1958	St. Thomas	405	421	832	620	2,278
	French West Indies	759	—	—	—	759
	Leeward Islands	68	—	—	—	68
	TOTAL	1,232	421	832	620	3,105

Cattle prices remained steady in 1957 at 14 cents per lb. live weight but rose in 1958 to 14½ and 15 cents per lb. Goats rose to 15 cents and sheep to 17 cents per lb. delivered at the weighing stations in the Colony. Pigs rose to 17 cents locally and 22 cents per lb. in St. Thomas.

Chapter 6: Production

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

THE total land area of the Colony is estimated at 37,608 acres of which some 10,000 acres are unsuitable for any agricultural purpose and a further 1,200 acres are under buildings. The used and potentially usable area is therefore estimated at some 26,000 acres. Of this area, only about 15,000 acres is actually devoted to agriculture as arable land cultivated for food crops and fruit trees, or is under more or less permanent pastures. Nevertheless, even bushland which is not included in the estimate of 15,000 acres under cultivation, is in fact sometimes used for rough grazing when there is an undergrowth of grass. Indeed, there is hardly anywhere in the Colony which cannot provide pasturage or rough grazing for cattle, sheep or goats, but shortage of water, especially on the smaller islands and cays, is a limiting factor.

Except in the island of Anegada (which is completely flat and too thinly covered with soil—where there is soil—to be of much use agriculturally) there is very little flat land anywhere in the Colony.

Types of Tenure

The prevailing type of tenure is freehold. The methods by which freehold is acquired are by outright purchase, inheritance under will, or, on intestacy, since January 1st, 1946, by inheritance in equal shares by all the children subject only to the interest of a surviving spouse. Grants of Crown land are made subject to reservation of all mineral rights but, apart from such reservation, no other condition of tenure is imposed. There is, however, considerable insecurity of title and interminable property disputes arise owing mainly to the fact that principles of English land law, and statutes relating to inheritance and the administration of a deceased person's property, which applied to the Colony, were neither understood nor observed by those who, on the abolition of slavery and the subsequent abandonment and sale of the estates by their former owners, became the new land owners. This has brought about a situation where there is hardly a title in the Colony which is secure, other than the few cases where land has been acquired by the first purchaser from the Crown. Interminable property disputes arising from the chaotic state of titles have become a characteristic feature of Virgin Islands life. The principal causes of disputes are uncertainty over devolution of title, or rights under tenancy in common, and uncertainty over boundaries. These disputes tend to cause shifting cultivation and other poor agricultural practices. It is believed that legislation setting up a land tribunal to clarify titles, accompanied by a cadastral survey

and proper system of land titles' registration, would provide a solution to these problems, but it has not yet been found possible to make progress in the matter, apart from investigating the requirements for a cadastral survey.

Land Ownership

It is estimated that 22,853 acres are in private ownership and 14,775 acres belong to the Crown. Native Virgin Islanders own 18,279 acres; non-indigenous British subjects own 1,901 acres and 2,673 acres are in alien ownership. Of the Crown land 172 acres are in Government use, 4,729 acres are rented to or otherwise occupied by native Virgin Islanders, 256 acres are leased to non-indigenous British subjects, 64 acres leased to aliens, 9,534 acres are unoccupied.

Rental System

Crown land in the islands of Anegada and Salt Island is used or occupied by the inhabitants free of rent, but elsewhere in the Colony it is rented on annual tenancies at from about 20c. to \$3.00 an acre. Between private persons the usual holding is by annual tenancy under verbal agreement for cash or consideration in kind. There is in force an Agricultural Small Holdings Act which provides security of tenure and compensation for improvements where tenancies are entered into under written agreement.

Water Resources

The water resources of the Colony are derived from underground sources, springs or wells, from spring beds, streams, or guts flowing in the rainy season (a very few perennially) and from roof catchments. The average rainfall is 53 inches but it is both erratic and uneven and consequently there are recurrent droughts, sometimes for long periods as happened in 1957, and water scarcity is a constant problem.

Soil conservation work was continued under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to the installation and maintenance of contour barriers advice and encouragement were given to farmers on the importance of maintaining soil fertility.

The Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance 1954 is the only legislation on the subject of conservation.

AGRICULTURE

General

The Colony, comprising as it does scattered islands separated by long distances, is at a disadvantage when it comes to agricultural development, but when to these disadvantages are added rugged topography, low rainfall and a harsh dry season the difficulties of

development become acute. The position is further complicated by a mobile population, with a tendency on the part of the "floating element" gradually to relinquish their rural mode of life, competition with the continental United States with supplies of cheap, mass-produced, fresh and processed American foods and a lack of a marketing organisation which could meet continental competition by ensuring quality and regularity of supply.

In 1957 the Colony experienced a severe and prolonged drought. The rainfall was 36.78 inches, the lowest for fifteen years. September, usually the wettest month, and the month when rains are of great importance to crops and pastures, was the driest month of the year with only .56 inches of rain. In 1958 conditions improved. The rainfall was unusually high, being 60.88 inches, the highest recorded in five years, and the distribution was good.

The propagation and distribution of economic and ornamental plants was continued to good advantage by the Department of Agriculture.

A pilot project in market gardening was undertaken late in 1957 with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds (\$1,400 Scheme D. 2717(42)) to demonstrate and promote the production of green vegetables. At the end of 1958 the experiment was regarded as successful and it is hoped that it will be possible to make loans for this purpose in the near future.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of policy in the fields of crop and animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries. During the period under review the staff included a Superintendent of Agriculture, three Agricultural Assistants, one Chief Stockman, one Forest Ranger and one Farm Foreman. A Pasture Development Officer from Jamaica, who came to the Colony in 1956, left the department in April, 1958, at the end of his 18-months secondment.

The Agricultural Assistants and the Forest Ranger are primarily concerned with the extension work of the Department.

Policy is directed towards the development of the livestock industry as the basis of the agricultural economy of the Colony. The activities are therefore organised so as to maintain animal health, and to increase production through breeding methods and the improvement and extension of pastures; the provision of planting material for crop husbandry; the protection of forest and the conservation of soil and water; and the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a loan scheme.

It was unfortunate that owing to severe drought conditions it was not possible to hold the annual agricultural shows in 1957. At the 1958 shows the standard of livestock was excellent and entries were numerous, and the pastures reflected the growing keenness of farmers in pasture management.

In June, 1957, Mr. A. deK. Frampton, Agricultural Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, and Major H. C. Biggs, Marketing Organiser, visited the Colony to give expert advice on agricultural policy. Their report is the first attempt to plan the agricultural development of the Colony on a comprehensive basis and is likely to have a far reaching effect on agricultural policy.

Crop Husbandry

The principal crops grown in the period under review were:

Sugar cane.—There is no sugar industry but cane is grown principally for the manufacture of rum. The Department of Agriculture is endeavouring to make new varieties available to farmers.

Limes.—There has been a steady increase in production. In 1956 the value of exports was \$181.00, in 1957 \$193.00 and in 1958 \$383.00.

Coconuts.—Exports increased both in quantity and value in 1957. In 1958 there was a sharp decline in quantity although the value showed an increase. Coconuts are, however, in demand for local consumption.

Bananas.—There was a decline in exports from 2,701 stems in 1956 to 2,223 in 1957 and 1,944 stems in 1958. There has, however, been no decline in production since green bananas replaced some of the other crops that failed owing to severe drought conditions in 1957 and good prices were obtained in the local market in 1958.

Food Crops.—Chiefly ground provisions (i.e. sweet potatoes, yams, tannias, cassavas), and vegetables to a much lesser extent. These were in very short supply in 1957 owing to drought. In 1958 there was an outstanding increase, fair quantities being exported with no effect on local consumption.

Production methods

All the farms are peasant-owned and are operated on a family basis with practically no wage labour but with a certain amount of free reciprocal farm help. Cultivation has been entirely by hand implements, there being no animal-drawn or power-driven agricultural machinery of any type. At the end of 1956 the Agricultural Department acquired two Ferguson tractors for hire to farmers but these have not materially affected the pattern. The system of cultivation is shifting or rotational, alternating from food crops to pastures and ultimately to secondary bush. The cycle begins again after the land has rested for a period of two or three years. Most of the fertile land is to be found on hill slopes at the higher elevations, and in the valleys, and there is an absence of a system of permanent terraces, manuring and systematic rotation of crops. The soils of the

Colony are for the greater part too light to sustain permanent cultivation, except for pasture grass, the cultivation of which in a permanent form is the principal agricultural activity.

Marketing

Produce is marketed direct to the consumer by the producer himself or his family, or is sold in St. Thomas, the sole export market, through an agent, usually the captain of the sloop who takes the commodities and sells them for the producer. The producer not infrequently, however, takes the produce himself to St. Thomas for sale, but although this method of marketing is extremely wasteful of time, production as a whole has been on too small a scale to justify, or cause any demand for, the establishment of organised marketing facilities.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

General

The Virgin Islands are topographically and climatically suited for the cultivation of grass and the production of livestock. Shortage of water is a limiting factor and the farmers go through a particularly difficult period during drought. The efforts to develop drought-resistant grasses should do much to improve the livestock industry.

During 1958 the Colony was visited by Mr. R. S. Marshall, C.B.E., Animal Health Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Livestock

The approximate livestock population of the Colony at the end of the period under review was as follows:

Cattle	.	.	.	6,000
Sheep	.	.	.	2,500
Goats	.	.	.	10,000
Pigs	.	.	.	5,000
Horses	.	.	.	400
Mules	.	.	.	300
Donkeys	.	.	.	400

Cattle.—Interest in cattle raising was at a high level in 1958 after the set-backs of the previous year. Good progress was made in pasture development. The incidence of both Piroplasmosis and Anaplasmosis was greatly reduced during 1957 and no cases were encountered during 1958.

Sheep and Goats.—There was considerable interest in sheep and goat raising and the demand for breeding stock from the Government Stock Farm for upgrading nearly always exceeded the supply. Except for cases of worm infestation the general health was good.

Pigs.—Steady gains have been made in the production of pigs both in quality and quantity. Due to the efforts of the Department over the years the predominating breed is Berkshire. Although there were no cases of swine-fever, inoculation as a preventative measure was carried out.

Horses.—The breeding of horses, mules and donkeys continued. Primarily they are used for transport over the rough island roads but some horses and mules have been exported and there is some interest in breeding horses for racing.

Poultry.—Interest in poultry was stimulated by both the local hotel demand and local preference for fresh meat and eggs. There are considerable possibilities in the expansion of this industry but lack of capital and relatively small consumer demand may be limiting factors.

Marketing.—Whilst there is no marketing organisation the Department of Agriculture provides inspection and weighing services. Traders from the French West Indies buy cattle by live weight direct from the farmer for cash; the pattern of shipping livestock to the Virgin Islands of the United States by the owner is disappearing and, generally speaking, such purchases are made by a local trader who is in touch with the St. Thomas butchers.

Efforts to Improve Production

Breeding Programme.—The Department of Agriculture maintains an 80-acre farm on Tortola for the production of grade-cattle and pure-bred pigs, sheep and goats for sale to farmers and for stud and breeding purposes. Sales in 1957–58 were as follows:

		1957	1958
Cattle	. . .	13	12
Sheep	. . .	2	13
Goats	. . .	3	3
Pigs	. . .	6	6

The stud services continue to be used satisfactorily.

Pasture Management.—A scheme for the establishment of eight five-acre plots for the purpose of demonstrating improved methods of pasture management as well as experimenting with different types of drought-resistant grasses and the use of fertilizers was introduced towards the end of 1956. The prolonged drought in 1957 set back the scheme considerably but better weather conditions in 1958 contributed to its success. Considerable interest has been aroused among farmers who appear to be convinced of the value of pangola grass and are steadily increasing their planting. It is estimated that over 60 acres have been established since the commencement of the demonstration.

Agricultural Credit.—This was designed solely for the purpose of pasture improvement. In 1957 loans amounted to U.S. \$10,326 and to U.S. \$6,595 in 1958. It is estimated that 2,000 acres have been improved with loan funds of which new land brought under cultivation totals 660 acres.

FORESTRY

Except for a fragment of xerophytic rain forest on Sage Mountain, Tortola, and an even smaller area of forest cover on Virgin Peak, Virgin Gorda, there are no forests in the Colony although there is some dense growth of secondary woodland on the higher elevations and bordering hillside "guts" in Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

The first step to preserve the Sage Mountain forest was taken in 1955 when the area was declared a Protected Area under the provisions of the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance, 1954. With assistance from a charitable foundation, the whole of this protected area is being acquired by purchase from the private owners with the intention of making it a National Park.

The conservation and extension of forests and wooded areas present no practical technical difficulties, but most of the land is owned in small lots by peasant proprietors and, as was found in process of acquiring Sage Mountain forest, conservation will present sociological and political problems. People are, however, beginning to recognise the need for conservation and the forestry programme should become progressively simpler to implement.

The Forest Ranger was given a short course in forestry in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, in 1957.

FISHERIES

Fishing Areas and Methods of Fishing

The coastal waters of the Colony abound with considerable quantities of fish; there are also many offshore banks which could be exploited by using deep-sea methods. Fishing activities are conducted mainly within the coastal areas. The principal methods of catching fish are by fish traps, line fishing and seines. The chief fishing centres in descending order of importance are Anegada, Peter and Salt Islands, West End and Jost Van Dyke. The typical fishing boat, a fore and aft rigged sloop about 20 feet overall, sometimes with a live well tank, is giving place to 10–15 foot rowing boats powered by outboard motors.

Marketing

Almost the entire catch is marketed direct to the consumer by the fishing boats. Small shipments are also delivered at sea by fishing boats to the commercial launches on their way to St. Thomas for marketing.

Statistics

Fish is the second largest export and the chief source of protein in the diet of the local population. There are no statistics of production but local consumption is believed to be several times greater than the total exports in any year. Exports of fresh fish in 1957 and 1958 were 56,760 lb. and 37,285 lb. respectively, compared with 72,370 lb. and 50,518 lb. in 1955 and 1956. The actual exports are considerably greater than the statistics show, owing to the quantities of undeclared fish which are taken at sea from small fishing boats by commercial passenger launches for sale in St. Thomas. Numbers of fishermen and fishing boats cannot be estimated. Few men live entirely by fishing and few boats are used exclusively for this purpose.

Efforts to Develop Fishing Industry

At present assistance is given in the form of loans from a Fisheries Credit Scheme for the purpose of purchasing fishing gear and engines for fishing boats. There is evidence that this has increased the supply of fish for both the local and export markets. In 1957 22 loans were made totalling \$6,005 and in 1958 14 loans totalling \$4,070.

In the Agricultural Development Plan it has been proposed that expert advice should be sought on the whole question of developing the industry.

MINING

A geological survey completed in 1955 revealed that copper indications are common in the Colony, there being scarcely a cay on which some malachite stains cannot be found. Mineralisation is most prominent on the island of Virgin Gorda where copper ores, including native copper, were raised from an old mine last operated in 1867. The survey showed that the copper is evidently accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenite. This mine which is situated on Government land at Virgin Gorda on which most of the mineralisation in that island occurs, is being investigated for copper and molybdenum by a private mining concern and a 40-inch vein of molybdenum has been found. There is no minerals vesting law but there is legislation in force controlling the prospecting, mining and export of radio-active minerals.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Manufacturing industries include the distillation of rum for local consumption and export to the Virgin Islands of the United States; boat building, to produce the comparatively large number of sloops and boats for inter-island trade and communications; hollow concrete blocks to meet the need for termite proof building material (now operated on a commercial basis by five producers); aerated

drinks (two plants being in operation of which the larger produces 1,500 cases a month) and a fair quantity of straw and basketwork for sale to visitors and export to the Virgin Islands of the United States. The work is distributed through a Home Industries Shop operated for the benefit of the producers.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

The Education system of the Colony is administered, under the Administrator, by a Board of Education which advises the Government on all questions of policy and by an Education Officer, appointed under the provisions of the Education Ordinance, 1955, who is responsible for the implementation of policy decisions.

The general management and supervision of primary schools is the responsibility of the Managers, staff matters being dealt with by a Primary Schools Commission which consists of the Managers of Government and assisted schools, with the Education Officer as chairman and executive officer.

The Management of the Government Secondary School is the responsibility of its Principal.

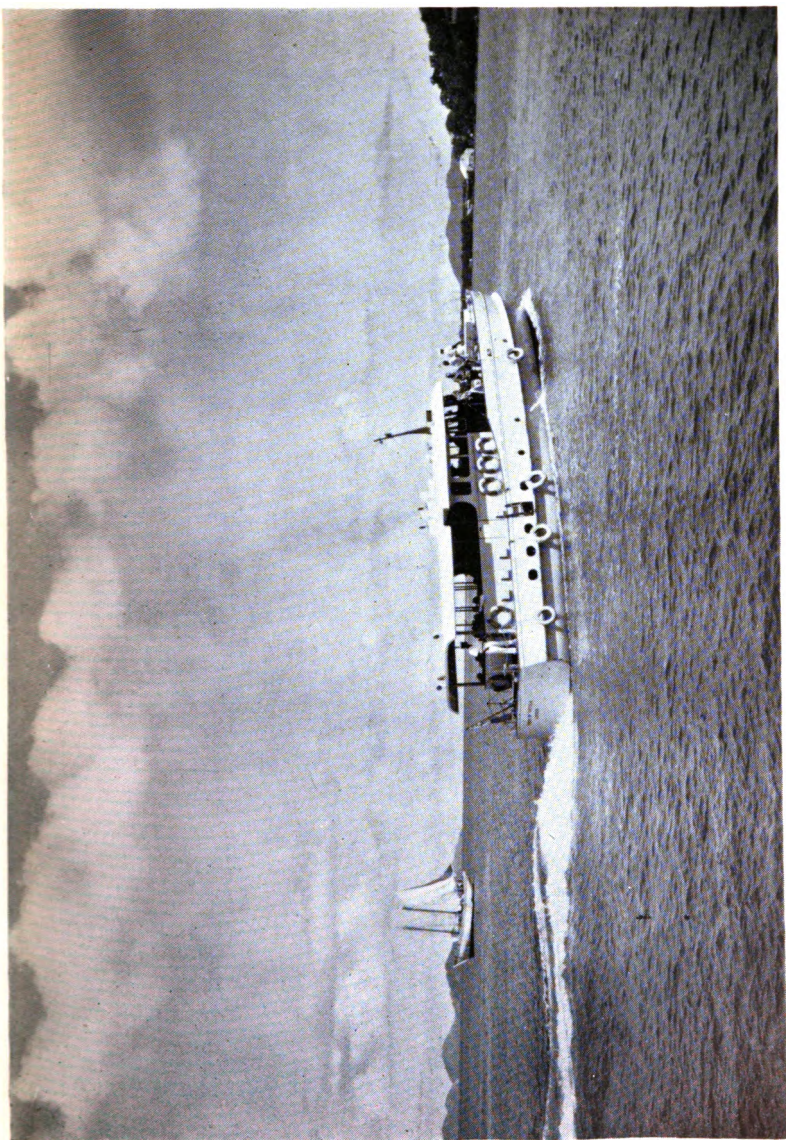
Primary Schools

There are three types of primary school—Government, assisted and private. A Government school is established and maintained wholly from public funds; an assisted school is assisted by grants made from public funds. Assisted schools may be primary or community schools, the latter being small schools in which the teaching is confined almost exclusively to the basic subjects and which are operated by private persons in areas where primary schools have not been established. A private school is a school attended by 12 or more children, not being a Government or assisted school.

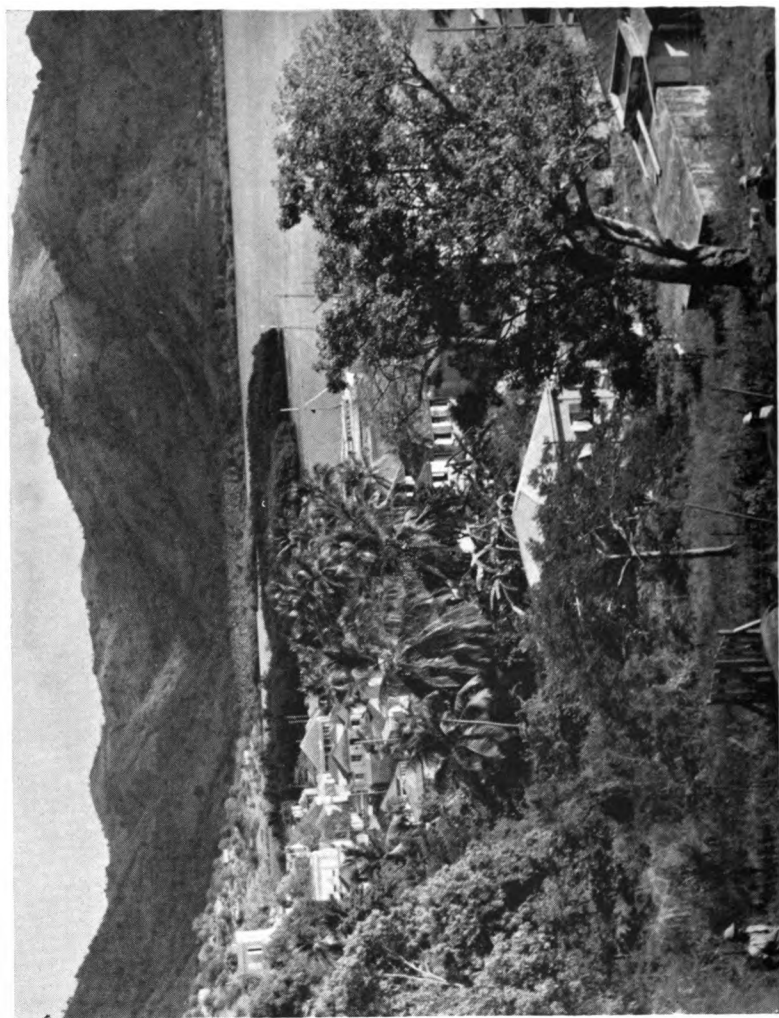
In 1958 the following primary schools were in operation: 1 Government, 12 assisted (10 Methodist, 2 Anglican), 3 community and 1 private.

School enrolment in 1957 was 2,046 and in 1958 2,179. Towards the end of 1958 attendance dropped to 78·5 per cent of enrolment owing to an epidemic of whooping cough.

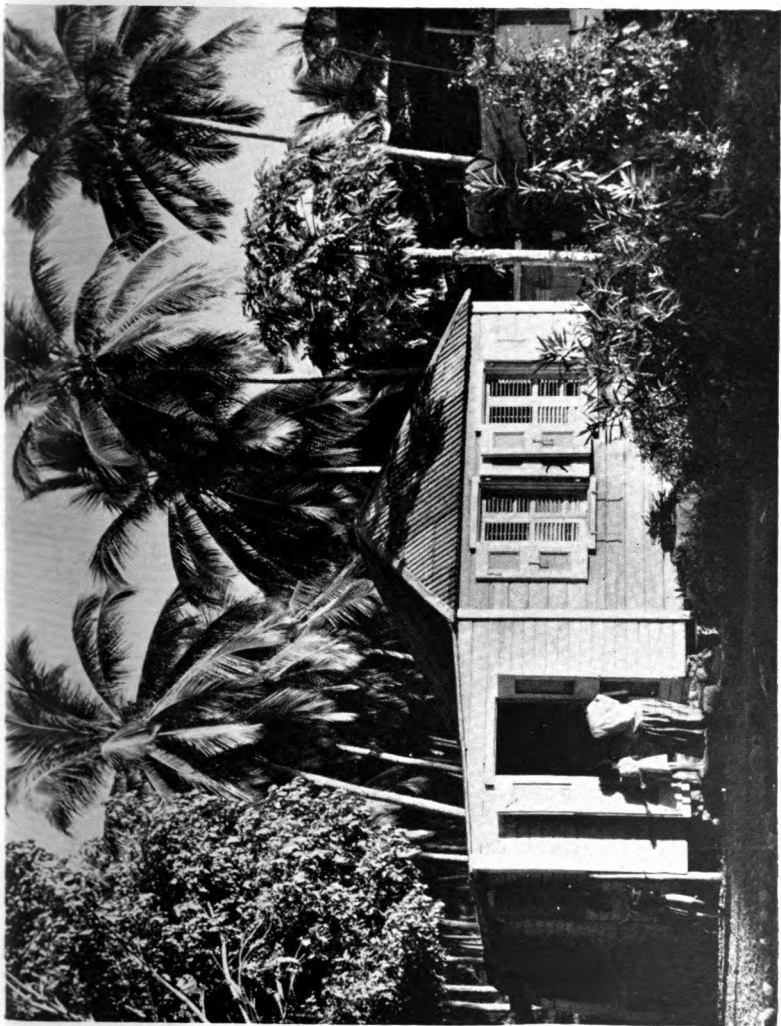
The period under review saw some improvement in the provision of instructional material. Accommodation remains a serious problem.



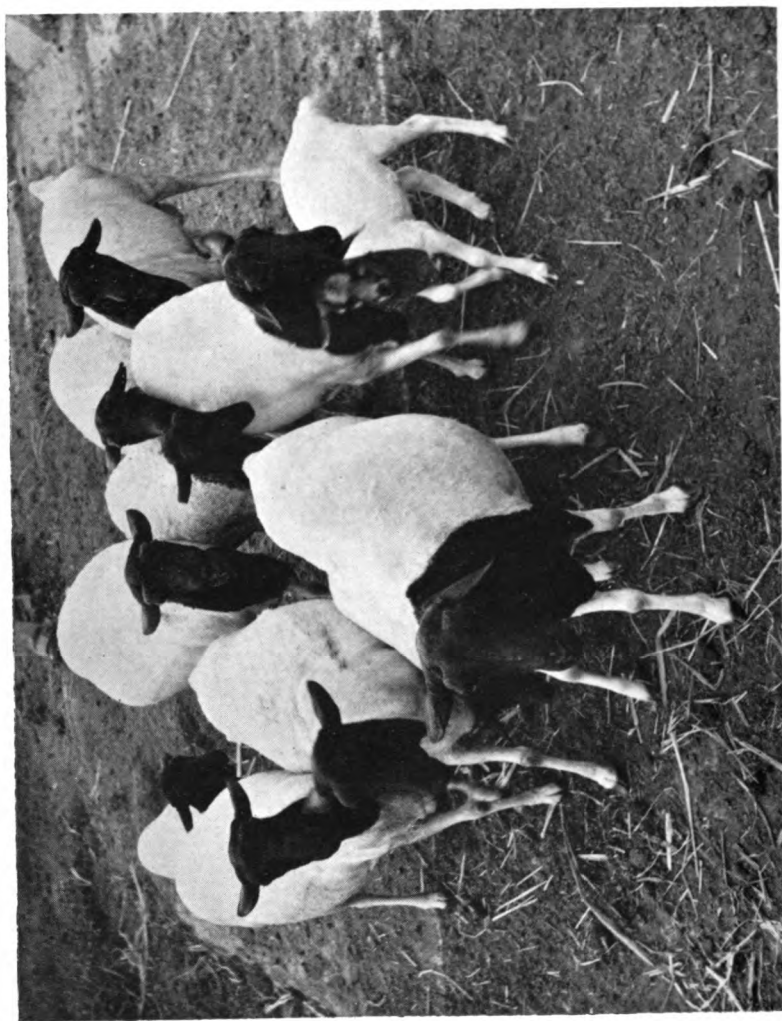
M.V. Youth of Tortola.



Road Town, Tortola.



A house near Baughers Bay, Tortola.



Black-headed Persian Rams at the Livestock Station which are used for crossing with local breeds.

Secondary School

There is one co-educational secondary school in the Colony which prepares pupils for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate. The curriculum comprises English, religious knowledge, social studies, Latin, Spanish, science, mathematics, home economics and woodwork.

In 1957 nine pupils out of 17 entrants were successful in the School Certificate Examination.

The greatest difficulty has been experienced in recruiting staff and at the end of 1958 the Principal was the only graduate.

Teachers

The following table shows the qualifications of teachers in all schools:

Teachers, 1957 and 1958

	Secondary School		Primary Schools		Community Schools		Private School	
	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958
Graduates	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trained	3	3	11	13	—	—	—	1
Untrained with School Certificate or Leeward Islands Teachers Certificate	3	4	11	11	—	—	1	—
Unqualified	—	—	18	12	6	6	1	1
Pupil Teachers	—	—	27	30	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	9	67	66	6	6	2	2

Teachers are trained at Erdiston College, Barbados and at Spring Gardens College in Antigua. One teacher returned from training in August, 1957, and two in August, 1958. One teacher was sent for training in September, 1958. Difficulty in obtaining replacements was responsible for the curtailment of the training programme. For the first time since 1944 there was no Refresher Course for teachers. The in-service training of pupil teachers continued and unqualified staff prepared for the Leeward Islands Teachers Examinations. In 1957 only 17 per cent of the teachers were trained. There was a slight increase to 23 per cent in 1958. Qualified teachers (including trained teachers) accounted for 35 per cent and 39 per cent of the teaching staff in the years under review.

A dispute arose between primary school teachers and the Primary Schools Commission over salaries and conditions of service in April 1958. Certain proposals have been made to the Government and it is expected that a decision will be taken on the questions involved early in 1959.

Education Extension

The Library service remains the only organised form of extension work. The number of registered borrowers was 1,065 in 1957 and 1,252 in 1958 and the service continues to do excellent work.

Expenditure

The cost of education for 1957-58 was as follows:

	1957	1958
	\$	\$
Primary Education . . .	45,314	51,891
Secondary Education . . .	14,420	16,556
Teacher Training . . .	183	3,525
Technical & Vocational . . .	—	187
Other Education . . .	1,672	1,673
Administrative (Non-allocated)	142	1,763
Non-Recurrent . . .	1,881	3,453
	<hr/> \$63,612	<hr/> \$79,048

Review of the Education System

If the period under review cannot be called one of achievement in the field of education it will certainly be recorded that this was the time when the Colony became really concerned about the system of education, took a critical look at it, and decided to take action to improve the position. A committee consisting of the Member for Trade and Production in the Executive Council, the Education Officer and the Principal of the Secondary School began an investigation of the education system early in 1957. In July the Educational Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies joined the committee to give expert advice. A report was submitted in August, 1957, a number of recommendations were made with a view to improving the standard of education, and suggestions for the drafting of regulations under the provisions of the Education Ordinance were appended. The report was considered by teachers, the Board of Education and the Government and a course for the future was charted within the limits of the human and financial resources of the Colony. A Teachers Conference arranged by the Education Officer in December, 1958, discussed the new policy, and the teaching service is ready to meet the challenge of higher educational standards.

The Colony was fortunate to have had a visit from Sir Christopher Cox, K.C.M.G., Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State, during the time when policy was being discussed.

PUBLIC HEALTH

General Health

In general, the health of the Colony for the period under review has been good. The main causes of ill health are malnutrition and poor sanitation. Far too little fruit and vegetables are grown, and a considerable quantity of this finds its way to the St. Thomas market, as a result of which there is a dietary deficiency in the Colony. Sanitary conditions leave much to be desired. Areas of bush often serve as

communal latrines and the effect is shown in a high incidence of gastro-enteritis in infancy and of ascaris infestation.

An outbreak of typhoid fever in 1957 led to a programme of immunisation for the Colony and 1,400 persons were immunised. There was an outbreak of whooping cough in 1958. Except for these there have been no epidemic diseases. Some concern was felt when cases of smallpox were reported in nearby islands and 1,796 vaccinations were given as compared with only 44 in 1957.

The Colony continues to be free from malaria, yaws, hookworm and leprosy. No cases of enteric fever were recorded in 1958.

Vital Statistics

The population at the end of 1957 was estimated at 7,760, and at the end of 1958 at 7,600.

The following table shows births and deaths in the period under review:

	1957	1958
Number of births	317	315
Number of deaths	106	93
Number of deaths under 1 year	29	42
Number of deaths under 1 month	13	13
Number of still-births	16	4

On the basis of a mid-year population estimate the following rates were calculated:

	1957	1958
Crude birth rate per 1,000	40.9	40.6
Crude death rate per 1,000	13.7	12.0
Infant mortality rate	91.5	136.9
Neonatal death rate	40.9	41.4
Still-birth rate	50.5	12.7

There has been a sharp reduction in the still-birth rate in 1958, but the infant mortality and neonatal death rates are increasing. The health services must be strengthened and provision was made in 1958 towards this end. However, trained nurses are in short supply and since student-nurses have to be trained to fill the existing vacancies progress will of necessity be slow.

Staff and Institutions

The medical and health services are provided entirely by the Government. They are administered by a Medical Officer in Administrative Charge, who is also Chairman of the Board of Health. He is assisted by a Medical Officer. The senior Medical Officer died towards the end of 1956 and the other doctor carried on alone until January, 1958, when a well qualified and experienced surgeon was appointed on contract. Both Medical Officers are allowed private practice.

Free clinics for children and indigents are held regularly in Road Town, three times weekly; at East End twice weekly and at Cane Garden Bay, Carrott Bay and West End once monthly. In the out-islands of Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dykes clinics are also held once a month.

The part-time services of a dentist now resident in the Colony were obtained in 1958 and clinics for school children and indigents are held regularly each week.

There is a single Cottage Hospital in Road Town with an Infirmary attached. In 1957 there were 450 admissions and 35 deaths and in 1958 538 admissions and 29 deaths. Eight hundred and thirteen patients were seen in the out-patients department in 1957 and 791 in 1958. The cost per patient was \$5.67 per week in 1957 and \$4.97 a week in 1958.

The hospital is at present being extended. The first stage was completed in 1958 and by the end of the year the second stage was well advanced. Accommodation and facilities will be greatly improved.

At the end of 1958 the establishment under the Medical Officer in Administrative Charge included one Medical Officer, one Laboratory Technician, one Laboratory Attendant, one Sanitary Inspector, one Nursing Sister, one Staff Nurse, 4 Nurses (3 being on districts), and 8 Student Nurses.

Expenditure

The total expenditure on the Medical and Health Services was \$37,872 in 1957 and \$49,973 in 1958.

HOUSING

By West Indian standards, housing in the British Virgin Islands is good and there is, generally speaking, no housing shortage, although the average density per dwelling or per room is high. The typical home is a strongly built wooden or concrete structure measuring 18 feet by 14 feet, with a corrugated galvanised iron roof and detached kitchen and out-house. The main dwelling is usually divided into three rooms—a living room and two bedrooms. It is customary to add other rooms as the size of the family increases. The majority of householders own their own homes but the number of tenanted houses is increasing. In Anegada and Virgin Gorda Valley, the standard of housing is above average. In the Belle Vue, Long Trench and Carrott Bay districts of Tortola, wooden houses with thatched roofs are not uncommon, although the numbers are rapidly decreasing.

All housing is undertaken by private enterprise and, in the majority of cases, by the owner-occupier. Timber-framed houses are common, but there has been in the last few years a swing towards houses built

of stone, poured concrete and hollow concrete blocks. For this achievement cheap cement, the dread of hurricanes, and the ravages of termites are chiefly responsible.

Under the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance 1955 (No. 10 of 1955) a Building Authority was set up to ensure planned and orderly development in building. More than this, however, is required in a rapidly growing community and funds have been approved to finance the visit of a town planner to advise the Government.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The social welfare activities in the Colony are limited and unco-ordinated but are nevertheless an important part of the life of the community. Except for Public Assistance there are no organised Government welfare services but the Government is always prepared to support voluntary effort as far as possible.

The Boy Scouts, except for six months in 1957, and the Girl Guides except for three months in 1957, continued their weekly parades. There is a serious lack of trained leadership which is partly responsible for the decline in the movements and prevents any increase. The Legislature voted the cost of passages to Antigua for two scouters who attended a training course in 1958 run by the Travelling Commissioner of the Imperial Headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association. One new troop was organised in East End in 1957.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued its work in training its members and a Home Nursing Division was organised. The Senior Police Officer, who is a lay-lecturer in the Brigade, is the officer in charge and there were 32 active members at the end of 1958 holding awards from certificates to pendants. A branch was opened at Virgin Gorda in 1958.

A branch of the British Red Cross Society was organised in January, 1958, following a visit of an official of the Society. The Junior Branch gave gifts to the aged at Christmas time.

The ancillary organisations of the churches continue to play their part in general welfare work.

The Public Assistance Committee appointed under the provisions of the Public Assistance Ordinance 1956 (No. 18 of 1956), set out, with the aid of voluntary assistants selected by the committee from each of the eight public assistance districts in the Colony, to investigate the payment of outdoor relief and the need that existed. This work was unfortunately interrupted by the absence from the Colony of the Administrative Secretary who is chairman of the Committee. A recommendation for an increase in the maximum grant for relief was, however, accepted by Government although this is considered by many to be still inadequate.

Chapter 8: Legislation

TEN Ordinances were enacted by the Legislature in 1957 and fifteen in 1958.

1957

Of the Ordinances passed in 1957 the more important ones were: *The Land Acquisition Ordinance, 1957*, which amends and consolidates the law relating to the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes.

The Births and Deaths Ordinance, 1957, which consolidates and amends the law relating to the registration of births and deaths.

1958

The most important enactment passed by the Legislature in 1958 was:

The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 1958, which amends the common law in certain respects and enacts certain provisions affecting civil remedies. In particular, it provides for apportionment of liabilities in cases of contributory negligence, abolishes the doctrine of common employment and deals with liability of owners of dogs for injury to persons, poultry and small stock.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prison

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the Colony by the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of statute law, that is to say legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial territories and therefore extend to the Colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the Colony.

From the 1st January, 1950 the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and the Leeward Islands (now the Colonies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands). The Court is presided over by a Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of whom there are four in number. The Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction had the power to hear and determine all matters that are heard and determined in England by the High Court of Justice.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed £50 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £100.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters. There is a right of appeal to the Federal Supreme Court from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance and, by leave, from any interlocutory order made in the court of any proceedings.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of £20 in contract and £10 in tort. The Colony is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61 of the Leeward Islands Act as adapted for use in the Virgin Islands by the Adaptation of Laws Regulations, 1956). Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court and further rights of appeal against the decision of a Judge may be made to the Federal Supreme Court. The Legal Assistant is also the Magistrate and when necessary the Administrator performs the functions of Additional Magistrate.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases heard by all courts are given at Appendix II.

POLICE

Defederation of the Leeward Islands on 1st July, 1956, has not affected the Leeward Islands Police Force, created in 1874, which remains a unit under the command of a Commissioner of Police with Headquarters in Antigua. The Colony of the Virgin Islands remains "D" Division under the command of an inspector.

At the end of 1958 the force comprised one inspector, two corporals and three constables, an increase of one corporal over 1957. In 1958 it was decided that the senior police officer should be an inspector instead of a sergeant and the incumbent was promoted to the new post. A new police station was opened at East End, Tortola, in 1958.

Twenty-seven local constables assisted in police duties and special efforts were made to train them. In addition to the usual short training courses local constables shared patrols and traffic duty with the regular police. Local constables are unpaid but receive a small monthly allowance. From 1958 provision is made for the issue of uniforms.

In addition to their normal duties the police also undertake the control of traffic and licensing of vehicles, the issuing of certificates of nationality for travel between the Colony and the United States Virgin Islands, and the operation of the Fire Fighting Service. The number of registered motor vehicles rose from 41 in 1956 to 74 in 1957 and 86 in 1958. Road accidents have increased considerably, reaching 18 in 1958 as against one in previous years, but none have been fatal.

The Fire Fighting Service consists of one police constable with special training, assisted by volunteers. All police personnel are, however, available for fire drills. Difficulty is experienced in maintaining a satisfactory number of trained volunteers owing to the mobility of the population.

Crime

There has been no increase in the incidence of crime. In 1957 the circuit judge was presented with the traditional white gloves, there being no case to hear. The only offences committed against the person were wounding and assaults, generally of a very trivial nature.

The following tables give details:

I. Total Criminal Cases Dealt with by the Police

	<i>No. reported</i>	<i>Persons taken to Court</i>	<i>Persons Convicted</i>
1957	65	51	29
1958	49	41	26

II. Total Convictions

	1957	1958
Escape from prison .	—	1
Grievous bodily harm, wounding and assault	14	14
Thefts by servants .	1	—
Other thefts . . .	14	11

PRISON

One prison with accommodation for five male and three female prisoners is maintained in the Colony. The penal administration is governed by the Prisons Ordinance, 1954 (No. 12 of 1954) but arrangements have been made for the removal of prisoners from the Virgin Islands to the Colony of Antigua under the United Kingdom Colonial Prisoners' Removal Act, 1869.

The staff consists of a Keeper (the Senior Police Officer) an Assistant Keeper (selected from the police personnel) and a Matron and a Temporary Warder. A Visiting Committee of Justices of the Peace, among other functions, advises the Keeper on the running of the prison.

The figures below show the number of prisoners received during the years under review:

	1957	1958
Conviction	22	13
Remand	5	4

Three of the prisoners committed on remand were subsequently received in prison after conviction in 1957 and two in 1958. One prisoner who was transferred to Antigua early in 1958 was returned to the Colony to complete his sentence.

The percentage of recidivism is somewhat high. Prison discipline was, however, good and there were no serious offences against prison discipline during the years under review. The health of the prisoners was uniformly good. Prisoners are usually employed at various Government Departments in cleaning work. There are no schemes for earning in prison and no arrangements for the aftercare of discharged prisoners. Juvenile delinquency is not a problem in the Colony.

Chapter 10: Public Works and Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY

UNTIL July, 1958, Road Town was lighted by a 20 k.W. electricity plant which was installed by the Government in 1950. Operating at capacity it supplied a daily six-hour service for street lighting and 63 private consumers. Work on a new power station was begun in 1956 and three 60 k.W. units have been installed with considerable assistance from the Government of Puerto Rico through the Water Resources Authority. Provision has been made for two additional units at a later date if necessary. The new service provides a daily

24-hour supply of electricity for street lighting and to 210 consumers at the end of 1958. The following tariff has been prescribed;

1-10 Kwh.	at 15c per Kwh.
11-20 Kwh.	at 10c per Kwh.
11-50 Kwh.	at 7c per Kwh.
51 & over Kwh.	at 5c per Kwh.

The construction of an ice-making plant and cold storage chamber was started in 1958.

WATER SUPPLIES

The provision of adequate water supplies for livestock as well as human use is an acknowledged problem which can only be overcome by a considerable expenditure over a period of many years. Some progress has already been made. The first stage of a piped supply for Road Town, forecast in the last Biennial Report, was completed in 1957 and a Development and Welfare grant of \$14,400 was approved late in 1958 for the improvement of country water supplies.

Loans for the construction of cisterns for storing rain water continued to be made to householders. At the end of 1958 50 new cisterns had been completed and loans amounted to \$2,010.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department carried out building construction and maintenance works totalling \$57,493 in 1957 and \$37,704 in 1958 and road construction and maintenance works totalling \$24,000 in 1957 and \$26,000 in 1958. Some of the more important building works completed by the department included an addition to the Administration Building for use as an archives room, an extension to the Cottage Hospital, police barracks and a post office in Road Town. The major work of making an airfield at Beef Island was not under direct Public Works Department supervision since no staff was available, but Public Works Department equipment was used and from early 1957 until late 1958 no heavy equipment was available for road work.

The Department experienced some difficulty in the recruitment of competent technical staff and for the last five months of 1958 had no superintendent or qualified engineer.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

ROAD TOWN is the sole port of entry but there are customs stations at West End and Jost Van Dyke which serve the needs of those areas for limited customs facilities.

There is no direct steamship service but regular sloop and launch communications are maintained with St. Thomas, Virgin Islands of

the United States, through which port passengers and cargoes destined for the Colony are landed and transhipped. In order to encourage the establishment of a daily launch-ferry service with St. Thomas, the import duty on passenger launches was abolished in 1956, and in 1958 the Tortola Shipyard Limited put into commission the 32 ton *Youth of Tortola* built for them by Messrs. James N. Miller and Sons of Fife, Scotland.

In 1957 there were 1,461 entries of sloops and launches which carried 3,898 tons of cargo and 9,369 passengers and 1,391 vessels cleared carrying 1,561 tons of cargo and 8,231 passengers. The complete figures for 1958 are not yet available but there was a general all-round increase, the passenger traffic being 13,444 entered and 13,518 cleared.

Inter-island and coastal transport

Communication between the islands of the Colony and between coastal settlements, where no road exists, is by boat or motor launch. The Government maintains a launch which makes scheduled visits to the largest of the inhabited islands, and to three coastal settlements, for administrative and medical purposes.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

There are 12 miles of motorable road connecting Road Town with East End/Long Look, and connecting Road Town with Sea Cow Bay, a village on the southern coast. Some improvement works have been carried out on this road including the concreting of two of the steepest hills along its way. Work is in progress to extend the road to the West End of Tortola and a new motor road has been started to give access to the central bridge. Construction and maintenance work on roads totalled \$24,000 in 1957 and \$26,000 in 1958.

There were 86 registered motor vehicles and 261 bicycles at the end of 1958.

In addition to the motorable road, there are over 60 miles of unsurfaced earth road and track in Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Though unsuited for motor traffic, the main earth roads are passable by land rover and jeep, but overland transport is still mostly by foot, horse, mule or donkey.

CIVIL AVIATION

An airfield on which construction work began in 1956 was by June 1957 completed up to a point where small aircraft were able to land. While the film *Virgin Island* was being shot in the Colony a large number of landings were made. In September and October there were 40 landings, and a further 72 in November. These included 11 Twin Beechcraft, 5 of which landed on one day. There were 88 Piper Apache landings and the balance were Luscombes. A trial flight by a Leeward Island Air Transport (L.I.A.T.) Beechcraft

from Antigua brought in the Chief Secretary and the Director of Civil Aviation. By August 1958, eight-seater planes were able to use the field. Eight aircraft called in 1958 including chartered flights of the L.I.A.T. and customs and fire-fighting facilities have been provided. From 1958 the planes of the L.I.A.T. have, officially, been prepared to call on request once a week on each of their northbound and southbound flights but lack of proper communication facilities has often caused the failure of these arrangements.

The Director of Civil Aviation for the Windward and Leeward Islands has jurisdiction in the Colony.

The nearest large airport is at St. Thomas 25 miles distant from Road Town, Tortola.

POSTAL SERVICES

The postal administration functions as a separate department of the Government. There is a General Post Office in Road Town, and sub-post offices at East End and West End, Tortola and one each on the islands of Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Mails and telegrams are despatched and received on almost every week-day. All mails, except surface mails for the other Colonies of the Leeward Islands, are routed through the St. Thomas Post Office which receives and despatches airmail daily.

The postal services account for a high proportion of the Colony's revenue through the sale of postage stamps. In 1957 this amounted to \$53,398 and in 1958 to \$14,759.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The internal radio-telephone system has five stations which are situated in Road Town, West End, Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda and Anegada. Maintenance presented a serious problem in 1957-58 due to the lack of trained maintenance personnel. An external link was established by All America Cables and Radio Inc. of New York in 1957. The Colony is now in daily contact by radio-telephone with the outside world through St. Thomas.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

No newspapers were published in 1957 and 1958. Equipment imported by the Tortola Development and Trust Company was landed in the Colony towards the end of 1958, but mechanical difficulties prevented the first issue of the *Tortola Times* being published as a Christmas number.

BROADCASTING

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony.

FILMS

There is no film production nor distribution. A commercial cinema, The Tortola Theatre, was opened by the Tortola Development and Trust Company during 1958.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

There is no Information Department. The Administrative Secretary performs the duties of Information Officer, and public notices exhibited and distributed keep the public aware of the more important events and announcements. Keeping in touch with the scattered communities in the Colony presents a big problem in the absence of press and radio.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THERE is no defence force in the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago in which the largest islands are the United States islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix contain over 40 British islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-south-west to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow, three to four-miles-wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from the United Kingdom. A recent calculation by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys shows that the total area is 59 square miles and not 67 square miles which has been the estimated area for many years.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass so that, although the island is nowhere more than about 3 miles wide it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands except Anegada rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different. Nowhere does it exceed 10 to 15 feet in altitude and it is remarkably level.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metaliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil, limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably among the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are few perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a pleasant sub-tropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 97°F. and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. a night. Hurricanes occur infrequently, on an average about once in every 25 years.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning off charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes—mainly *croton balsamiferum*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrubs *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of a most interesting and unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola.

Being of great scientific interest this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance, and the area

is being purchased in order that it may be permanently protected as a Nature Reserve.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge Agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Four-fifths of the estimated population of 7,600 live on Tortola. Some 1,500 people live in Road Town, the capital, and its environs and some 1,800 at East End/Long Look, the only other area in the Colony approaching the size and status of a township. The overall density of the Colony, 128.8 persons per square mile, means very little. Of the 1,500 people who do not live on Tortola all except about 100 are scattered on 11 inhabited islands, principally Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke. The rest, i.e. the 100, live in very small communities on the other islands.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources, and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the Colony. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has had to be abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions for home consumption, the surplus being exported to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and this has led to a thriving livestock industry. Cattle thrive in the islands and a first class beef breed, the Nellthrop, is being developed. The size of the islands and the absence of flat land contributed to the decline of estate agriculture and its replacement by small-holdings worked, with very few exceptions, by the owner-occupier. Being always near to the sea and often in need of ready cash it is not unnatural that the small-holder is often a fisherman as well.

It is recognised that the tourist industry is so controlled by fluctuating external influences that it would clearly be unwise to rely on it as the sole means of development. The Colony is, however, conscious of its substantial tourist potential because of its charm and interest as an unspoilt area for sailing, boating, fishing, bathing, horse-riding and for people who wish for rest and relaxation in a natural setting.

The economic life of the Colony is therefore centred on livestock-raising, with subsistence ground provision production and on fishing.

The products both of the livestock and fishing industries find a ready market in the Virgin Islands of the United States. There are very few manufacturing industries as such, all conducted on a comparatively small scale. Copper occurs in exploitable quantities in Virgin Gorda but there is not sufficient to give rise to a major industry; the copper is accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenum. The economic future of the Colony depends on the best use being made of the land for agriculture, on the fullest possible exploitation of its fisheries resources and in the development of the Colony as a tourist resort.

The people of the British Virgin Islands are hard working farmers, fishermen and businessmen living and working under difficult circumstances. They lack many of the amenities regarded as commonplace elsewhere, particularly in communications and water supply. There are certain natural resources but, as in any other country, it will take capital investment and expert technical guidance to make the most of them.

COMMUNICATIONS

Capital is especially needed to help develop the Colony's communications which cannot be said to be adequate. The provision of more roads, including a scenic road on the top of the mountain ridge, and improved air and sea facilities will have far reaching effects on the economy both in the agricultural and tourist development aspects. At the moment inaccessibility is one of the Colony's major problems, and ranks with topographical, soil and water deficiencies in making difficult the establishment of a sound economic structure.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on November 17th, 1493, by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgines in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 Virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595 when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later several English planters and their

families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola, where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717, a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board." The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lb. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of two official and three nominated unofficial members was substituted. This form of Government was abrogated in 1902 when the Governor-in-Council became the sole legislative authority. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was again granted to the islands in 1950.

On July 1st, 1956, the Leeward Islands Colony was defederated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a Colony.

Following are some of the important dates in the Colony's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel
 which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement of Tortola by Dutch Buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1672 Tortola annexed to British Crown.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.

- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—First Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for Civil Government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional Government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave
 them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.

- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate
 Colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.

- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution—Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1871 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature re-constituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands Colony and establishment of Colony of the Virgin Islands.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on the 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council 1956 (S. I. No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2, Chap. 23). This act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) separate Colonies.

The Colony of the Virgin Islands is administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands by an Administrator. The Chief Secretary's Office, and the Audit and the Police Force are central services and are directly responsible to the Governor. The Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands continues as the Governor's Legal Adviser.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council constituted by the Leeward Islands Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, 1956. It consists of one *ex officio* member, two official members, two elected members and one nominated member.

At the beginning of the period under review the council was made up as follows:

<i>Ex officio Member</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Mr. T. E. A. Perkins (Treasurer)
	Mr. H. A. Besson (Legal Assistant)
<i>Nominated Member</i>	Mr. J. O. Georges, M.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (Member for Trade and Production)
	Mr. W. W. Smith (Member for Public Works and Communications)

Mr. H. O. Creque (Administrative Assistant) succeeded the Treasurer in November, 1957.

Following the general election in October the elected members of the Council were:

- Mr. L. F. Malone
(Member for Trade and Production)
- Mr. I. G. Fonseca, J.P.
(Member for Public Works and Communications)

Mr. O. M. Browne succeeded Mr. Besson as Legal Assistant and was appointed to the Council in May, 1958. Mr. D. S. Mordecai was appointed Treasurer in April, 1958, and a member in Council in September, 1958, having served as a temporary member since July in the absence of Mr. H. O. Creque.

The Legislative Council constituted by the Constitution and Elections Ordinance 1954 (No. 7 of 1954) comprised the following at the beginning of the period under review:

<i>President</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Mr. T. E. A. Perkins (Treasurer) Mr. H. A. Besson (Legal Assistant)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr. W. W. Smith (Member, Tortola West and Jost Van Dykes) Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (First Member, Tortola Central) Mr. I. G. Fonseca, J.P. (Second Member, Tortola Central) Mr. T. H. Faulkner (Member, Anegada and Virgin Gorda) Mr. L. F. Malone (Member, Tortola East) Mr. C. Brudenell-Bruce (Member, Tortola North)
<i>Nominated Members</i>	Mr. J. O. Georges, M.B.E., J.P. Mr. J. R. O'Neal, J.P.

Following the general election in October, 1957, membership changed as follows:

Mr. Lavity Stout succeeded Mr. W. W. Smith in the Tortola West and Jost Van Dykes District.

Mr. I. G. Fonseca, J.P., became the First Member and Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E., the Second Member for the Tortola Central District.

Mr. Waldo O'Neal defeated Mr. T. H. Faulkner in the Anegada-Virgin Gorda District.

Mr. Ivan Dawson succeeded Mr. C. Brudenell-Bruce who did not stand for re-election.

Mr. O. M. Browne (Legal Assistant) was appointed an official member in May, 1958, and

Mr. D. S. Mordecai (Treasurer) succeeded Mr. H. O. Creque (Administrative Assistant) in September, having served as a temporary member since July, 1958.

The District Councils Ordinance 1952 (No. 7 of 1952) provided for a system of local government but has never been implemented. On the out-islands (Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dykes) the Administrator appoints a Government Agent from among the

local people. The position carries no salary but the appointee is usually a member of the local constabulary which pays an allowance, a collector of taxes on a percentage basis, and a Road Warden in which job he is paid for services performed. The function of a Government Agent is generally to look after the Government interests in the out-islands.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

HANDBOOKS

- FISHLOCK, W. C., *Handbook of the Virgin Islands*, Published 1912.
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- ANON, *Letters from the Virgin Islands*, John Van Voorst, 1843.
 BELICARIA, A. M., *The Trial of Arthur Hodge*, J. Harding, 1811.
 CHALKLEY, T., *A Journal or Historical Account of the life, travels and Christian experiences of Thomas Chalkley*, 2nd. ed., 1751.
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SOUTHEY, THOMAS, *Chronological History of the West Indies*, Longman Rees, Orme, Brown & Green, 1827.

SUCKLING, GEORGE, *An Historical Account of the Virgin Islands*, Benjamin White, 1780.

VAUX, P., 'A forgotten West Indian Island (Anegada)', *United Empire* vol. 8, pp. 99-101. 1917.

WRONG, HUME, *Government of the West Indies*, Oxford University Press, 1923.

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AUGELLI, JOHN P., 'The British Virgin Islands: A West Indian Anomaly,' *Geographical Review*, N.Y. vol. 46, 1956.

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CHARNOCK, FRANCIS & SHEPPARD, *An Investigation of Wind Structure in the Trades: Anegada, 1953*, Royal Society of London Series A. No. 963, vol. 249, 1956.

SCHOMBURGK, R. H., 'Remarks on the Heavy Swell along some of the West India Islands . . . and on the Let and Velocity of the Tides, and the Effects produced by their transporting power, among the Virgin Islands,' *Royal Geographical Society Journal*, vol. 5, pp. 23-38, 1835.

"An Issue is Born, Virgin Islands 1956"—*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, vol. 31, Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

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EADIE, H. B., *Lagooned in the Virgin Islands*, G. Routledge & Sons, 1931.

HOLRIDGE, DESMOND, *Escape to the Tropics*, Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1937.

SMITH, GLANVILLE, *Many a Green Isle*, Bodley Head, 1942.

YOUNG, E. & HELWEG-LARSEN, K., *Caribbean Cocktail*, Melrose, 1955.

NOVELS

LEVO, JOHN, *The Hurricane*, Hutchinson & Co., 1930.

LEVO, JOHN, *Virgin Islanders*, Hutchinson & Co., 1933.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette (obtainable from Government Printing Office, Antigua).

Water Supplies of the British Virgin Islands by P. H. A. Martin-Kaye (obtainable from Administrator's Office, B.V.I.).

APPENDIX I

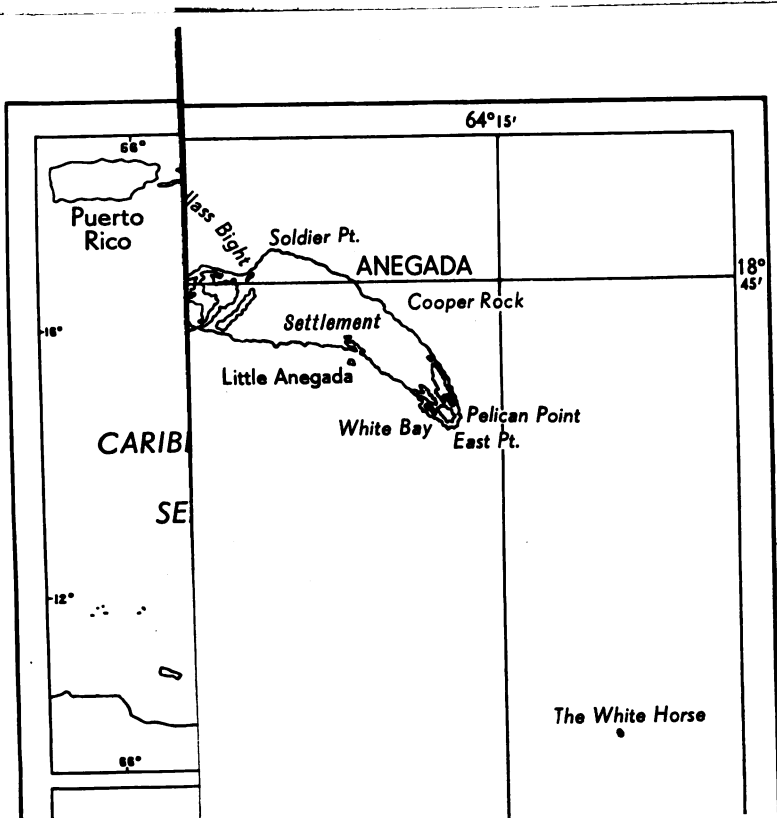
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

<i>Serial No. of Scheme</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Authorised Grant</i>	<i>Expendi- ture to 31.12.57</i>	<i>Expendi- ture to 31.12.58</i>
		\$	\$	\$
D.1933 & A & B	Road Town—East End Road	83,022.80	74,220.44	74,220.44
D.2658(129)	Training in Pathology . .	319.20	316.51	316.51
D.2658(130)	Training in Customs and Excise	655.20	571.72	597.47
D.2658(131)	Training in Forestry . .	179.20	140.15	150.95
D.2658(212)	Training in Radiotelephony	310.80	—	297.50
D.2717(42)	Pilot Project in Market Gardening	1,400.00	1,105.35	1,105.35
D.2788 & A	Training in Grassland Management	14,736.40	8,602.95	12,102.02
D.2759	Marine Light Ginger Island	2,800.00	1,660.62	2,223.20
D.2760	Purchase of Agricultural Machinery	7,980.00	7,129.86	7,629.86
D.2794	Stock Farm	26,154.80	—	1,554.77
D.2789	Major Bay School . . .	6,200.40	3,708.21	6,001.21
D.2965	Public Works Equipment and Workshop	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
D.3035 & A	Beef Island Airfield . .	39,200.00	25,975.18	38,294.19
D.3036	Temporary Staff Public Works Department . .	10,885.20	6,780.42	7,894.55
D.3134 & A	Hospital Extension . . .	36,400.00	8,323.54	23,916.74
D.3135	Construction of Roads in Tortola	28,000.00	666.60	6,777.28
D.3279(21)	Vocational Training, Puerto Rico	23.24	—	20.75
D.3279(30)	Vocational Training, Puerto Rico	137.20	—	123.00
D.3351 & A	Purchase of Skid Shovel Angledozer	28,000.00	—	25,360.44
D.3384	Temporary Staff Public Works Department . .	28,826.00	—	2,759.38
D.3497	Training Courses, Virgin Islands	3,360.00	—	546.60
D.2651(32)	Visit of Expert in Tourism	302.20	—	258.78
D.2651(37)	Visit of Forestry Officer .	554.40	—	508.20
D.2651(40)	Visit of Road Engineer .	428.40	—	427.57
D.3563	Training of Teachers at Erdiston College . . .	2,396.80	—	—
D.3569	Country Water Supplies .	14,000.00	—	—
D.3592	Town Planning in Tortola	924.00	—	—
D.2791	Forestry Development . .	5,600.00	—	—

APPENDIX II CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES 1957 AND 1958

Court	Civil Cases		Criminal Offences Charged		Accused Persons		Convictions		Acquittals	
	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958
Supreme Court	9	4	2	5	2	5	1	3	1	2
Court of Summary Jurisdiction	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magistrate's Court	109	40	172	122	172	122	165	109	7	13

<i>Juveniles—All Courts</i>						<i>Summary Table of Punishments Awarded by All Courts</i>					
<i>Charged</i>		<i>Acquitted</i>		<i>Convicted</i>		<i>Imprison- ment</i>		<i>Fines</i>		<i>Otherwise Disposed of</i>	
1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958
3	3	1	—	2	3	24	11	124	82	18	19



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CAYMAN IS.~	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	CAICOS IS.
DOMINICA ~	-ANGUILLA	ZANZIBAR~

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British Virgin Islands 1959 and 1960



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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Report for the years
1959 and 1960

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1962

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Map at end

NOTE: United States currency is used throughout this report except where otherwise stated.

PART I

General Review of 1959 and 1960

ROYAL VISIT

FOR the first time in living memory the Colony was honoured by a visit from a member of the Royal family when Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal arrived at Road Town, Tortola aboard Her Majesty's yacht *Britannia* on Thursday, 3rd March 1960. Following a Welcome Ceremony and presentation of important local personages at the Main Wharf, Her Royal Highness undertook a full programme of visits to schools and other institutions. A Youth Rally held in the grounds of the Government secondary and primary schools in Road Town, which included an historical pageant "Ye Islands of Enchantment" presented by representatives from all post-primary schools in the Colony, brought to a close a memorable day in the history of the British Virgin Islands.

ADMINISTRATION

Sir Alexander Williams, K.C.M.G., M.B.E. continued as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands until 31st December 1959, when the office was abolished.

Captain G. J. Bryan, M.C. succeeded Mr. G. P. Allsebrook as Administrator in December 1959. Mr. Allsebrook left the Colony in November to return to his substantive post in Tanganyika and Mr. E. A. Evelyn, I.S.O. acted as Administrator during the inter-regnum.

On 1st January 1960, Captain Bryan took the oaths of office as Administrator for the second time, becoming, under the present constitution, Her Majesty's representative in the Colony directly responsible to the Colonial Office in London.

In 1959 the Administrator, Mr. G. P. Allsebrook, and three unofficial members of Legislative Council visited London for constitutional discussions with the Secretary of State. The Administrator and Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E., Member for Trade and Production, visited London in November 1960, for economic and financial talks.

POLITICAL

The Legislative Council was dissolved in September 1960, and general elections were held in October. Thirteen candidates stood

for the six elected seats and all constituencies were contested. Except for the member for the Fifth District (Anegada and Virgin Gorda) who lost his seat, all the sitting members were returned. Of the 3,487 registered voters, 1,783 or 51.1 per cent. cast their ballots of which only four were spoiled. A considerable number of persons eligible for registration and duly registered were absent from the Colony on polling day being in the United States Virgin Islands. The breakdown on election day of one of the commercial boats plying between St. Thomas and Road Town is reported to have prevented many of these from returning home to cast their ballots.

INTER-VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

The relationship between the two groups of Virgin Islands continued on a friendly and satisfactory basis. Meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference were held regularly in Tortola, St. Thomas and St. John during the period under review. At the last meeting in 1960 the Memorandum establishing the Conference was amended to recognise the constitutional changes which had taken place in the British Virgin Islands with effect from 1st January 1960. The recognition by the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, Mr. John David Merwin, of the necessity for co-operation between islands forming a single geographical and economic group and his dynamic approach to the meetings of the Conference resulted in benefit to both groups. A number of committees were at the end of 1960 studying mutual problems and contact between officials and their opposite numbers on both sides had created remarkably cordial relations.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of the Colony is closely interrelated with that of the adjacent United States Virgin Islands and with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The continued rapid economic expansion in these territories has in many ways affected the economy of the British Virgin Islands. Although the basic economic structure has undergone no fundamental change (the livestock industry still being the backbone of the economy) there is a growing consciousness of the substantial tourist potential which the Colony possesses, and every effort is being made to exploit it. Government policy has therefore been to devote the bulk of substantial grants in aid and generous grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to projects which will assist the basic agricultural economy of the islands, improve communications, increase trade and promote tourism.

The main source of employment for British Virgin Islanders continued to be St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands.

The economy of that island is dependent on the employment of workers from elsewhere. The proximity of the British Virgin Islands and the traditional ties between the two groups of islands results in British Virgin Islanders being in a specially favoured position in regard to employment. It is estimated that more than 10 per cent. of the total population of the British Virgin Islands is employed in St. Thomas at any one time. The high level of wages paid in St. Thomas (probably the highest in the Eastern Caribbean) is geared to a well developed tourist industry undergoing boom conditions. The serious drain on the effective manpower of the British Virgin Islands and the necessity of fixing wages in the British Virgin Islands in competition with wages in St. Thomas are factors which tend to militate against development in the British Virgin Islands, especially the development of public services which is financed from sterling sources but undertaken in what is in fact a hard currency area.

Nevertheless in the period under review licences were granted under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act to 23 persons to acquire property amounting to 181 acres subject to development involving expenditure of \$170,000 within a period of five years.

In 1959 legislation was introduced with a view to controlling the alienation of land to British subjects other than British Virgin Islanders. The proposed restrictions met with widespread opposition from all sections of the public and the bill was not proceeded with.

During August 1959 the Government accepted a tender submitted by the Intercontinental Development Corporation for the 99-year lease of the islands of Prickly Bear, Eustatia and Saba against an undertaking to spend not less than \$350,000 on the development of the islands within a period of five years. Details of the lease had not been finalised by the end of 1960. Negotiations were also proceeding with Mr. Laurence Rockefeller for the lease of some 350 acres of Crown land on the island of Virgin Gorda under which he would be prepared to expend at least \$1½ million on developing the area as a large-scale tourist resort. By the end of 1960 Mr. Rockefeller had already spent some \$10,000 to \$15,000 on wages for local labour.

Authority has been given under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act for additional capital to be invested in one of the Road Town hotels and assistance has been given under the Hotels Aid Ordinance, 1953, for the development of three other hotels. A new hotel "The Lagoon Plaza" opened in Road Town on 1st August 1959.

The second marine slipway in the Road Town area was opened at Baughers Bay on 9th May 1959.

The Land Use Survey Team appointed in 1959 submitted its report in April 1960. The report provides an overall development programme designed to improve the economy and living standards through the more intensive use of the limited physical resources available while at the same time conserving those resources. The recommendations envisage:

- (a) keeping economically competitive agricultural land in production;
- (b) re-forestation of unproductive land, particularly the ridges and Crown land;
- (c) proper use of other areas for public recreation, tourism, permanent and seasonal residences.

To achieve these objectives the report considered that public investment was necessary in basic services such as roads, electricity, water supplies, and communications to the extent of some \$4 million in addition to the funds at present available for that purpose.

The report has been accepted by the British Virgin Islands Government in principle, and consideration is being given to the extent to which the detailed recommendations can be implemented in the light of present circumstances and the funds available to the Government.

A Chamber of Commerce was established on 10 June 1960.

A Fiscal Committee appointed in 1960 to review all sources of Government revenue reported at the end of the year. The report is being studied.

The first cruise ship to visit the territory, the m.v. *Meteor*, called at Road Town on 29th December 1960 with 115 passengers on board.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The report of the committee which reviewed the education system in 1958 was accepted as the blue-print for educational development. By the end of 1960, 19 of its 21 specific recommendations had been implemented, the most important being the reorganisation of primary education into infant, primary and post-primary schools or departments, and the introduction of a new curriculum.

The general health of the Colony was good, although there was an acute shortage of nursing staff and sanitary conditions were still unsatisfactory. Good progress was however made in providing equipment for the Government hospital. A campaign to eradicate yellow fever financed equally by the World Health Organisation and from funds made available from the territory's Development and Welfare allocation commenced in 1960 and was expected to last about two years.

Mr. R. Terell, a Principal in the Social Services Department of the Colonial Office, visited the Colony in February 1959.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. L. H. Gorsuch who had been appointed Salaries Commissioner for the Leeward Islands visited the Colony in April 1960. His report was received in August and his recommendations were endorsed by the Legislative Council in September, subject to the availability of funds. The recommendations, which were estimated to involve immediate additional expenditure of the order of \$55,000 a year, were intended to provide the basis for an attractive and satisfying career in the Civil Service resulting in an efficient and stable service, which is badly needed at this stage of the Colony's development. Substantial improvements were proposed in the salaries for nurses and it was hoped that the large number of vacancies in the nursing staff would as a result be satisfactorily filled. The report was still under consideration at the end of 1960.

A Whitley Council was established and was due to hold its first meeting in January, 1961.

GENERAL

During 1960 the Colony suffered two serious setbacks. On 8th May six inches of rain fell in four hours and damage estimated at \$50,000 was caused to roads and bridges. Her Majesty's Government generously offered to provide the necessary funds to make good the damage. On 5th September, hurricane "Donna" struck the Colony causing some damage especially on Anegada where property damage and loss of small stock was estimated at \$10,000. Assistance was given to the island by the Red Cross, both British and American, and aid from the Government amounted to some \$3,000. A special fund was opened to provide relief for those who suffered from the hurricane and some \$2,227 was subscribed.

Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., provided, in the form of a free gift, the funds to purchase an area of 100 acres at Sage Mountain, Tortola, containing the remains of xerophytic forest and two beach areas at Spring Bay and Devil's Bay, Virgin Gorda. All three areas will be held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the public.

Mr. Peter Scott, the painter and naturalist, made a film in the British Virgin Islands in January 1959 which was shown to television audiences in the United Kingdom.

Mr. R. Thruelsen, editor of the *Saturday Evening Post*, visited Tortola early in 1959, and an article appeared in February 1960 drawing attention for the first time on a wide scale to the tourist potential of the islands.

Sir John Vaughan-Morgan, Member of Parliament for Reigate, spent three days in Road Town at the end of April 1960.

HONOURS

Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments and awards:

1959 Birthday.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Joseph Reynold O'Neal, Nominated Member of the Legislative Council.

1960 New Year.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Gerald Jackson Bryan, M.C., Administrator.

The British Empire Medal: Mrs. Alexandrina Maduro; Albert Pickering.

1960 Birthday.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: James Olva Georges, M.B.E., Nominated Member of Executive Council.

VISITING SHIPS

In 1959 H.M.C.S. *St. Croix* (Commander K. H. Buggila, C.D., R.C.N.) visited from 4th to 8th May, H.M.S. *Troubridge* (Commander H. H. Young, R.N.) and H.M.S. *Ulster* (Commander C. Rusby, R.N.) from 25th to 27th August, and H.M.S. *Troubridge* from 22nd to 26th September. There were no visits by naval ships during 1960.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

IN 1959 the population was estimated to be 7,600. A demographic census was taken on 7th April 1960, and the following is a comparison between the preliminary count of this census and the official return of the previous one taken in 1946:

	1946	1960
Tortola	5,421	6,253
Virgin Gorda	504	564
Anegada	274	268
Jost Van Dyke	238	178
Other Islands	68	75
TOTAL	<u>6,505</u>	<u>7,338</u>

The present population represents an increase of 12.8 per cent. over 1946.

The movement of British Virgin Islanders between the two groups of Virgin Islands continued at a rate thought to be 200 to 300 a week. A large number of people continue to spend alternate months in the British Virgin Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States. The preliminary count does not therefore reflect accurately the true population of the territory. Details of the census (which have not yet been received from Jamaica where the report for the entire Caribbean area is being compiled) will indicate the number of persons normally resident in the British Virgin Islands, but who were absent on census night.

With the exception of some 50 white persons of European and American origin resident in the Colony, the population is of African extraction.

Vital statistics are given in Chapter 7, page 35.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE Colony can be described as a community composed basically of small-scale farmers, fishermen and sailors. A high proportion of the younger people have however left the land and sea for more lucrative employment in the tourist industry in the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands, especially St. Thomas and St. John. The older men are still largely confined to agricultural pursuits, principally livestock raising and fruit and vegetable farming. The sloops and schooners engaged in the inter-island trade between Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands continue to give a good living to a number of men. The high percentage of self-employment common to the islands for generations is fast giving way to employment for wages.

The principal occupations in order of importance are:

- (a) Public Service—the civil service and the education service.
- (b) Building—constructional, road making and repair work.
- (c) Agricultural pursuits.
- (d) Commerce—shops, stores and haulage of cargo.
- (e) Fishing.
- (f) Repair and maintenance services, workshops and shipyards.
- (g) Passenger transport services—road and water.
- (h) Personal services—servants.
- (i) Industry—hotel, rum manufacture and blockmaking.
- (j) Cottage industries.
- (k) Clothing manufacture—tailors, dressmakers.

Most people outside the public service follow more than one occupation.

Government continued to be the principal employer of labour. At the end of 1960 there were 221 persons employed in the civil and educational services of the Colony and a number of other persons were employed as skilled and unskilled labourers in various development projects including road construction and maintenance works.

Skilled labour is often difficult to obtain owing to the demand in the United States Virgin Islands and the high rate of wages there as compared with the rates in the Colony (U.S. \$12 to \$18 a day in the United States Virgin Islands, as against U.S. \$5.50 to \$8.00 a day in the British Virgin Islands).

Under a commitment to expend some \$1½ million on the development of a large-scale tourist resort in Virgin Gorda, Mr. Laurence

Rockefeller had expended some \$10,000 to \$15,000 in wages by the end of the year. It is expected that this project will ultimately provide employment for some 250 people during the construction period which is likely to be not less than three years.

During 1959, 13 men were recruited for employment in the sugar industry in St. Croix and eight in 1960. Owing to the higher rate of pay in the tourist industry and constructional work in St. Thomas, the number of these workers has steadily declined in spite of the fact that the men recruited for St. Croix sign a contract and are assured of minimum wages of not less than \$27.50 a week, plus meals and lodging. Domestic workers, waiters, labourers and artisans from the British Virgin Islands are allowed to enter the United States Virgin Islands to work under bond for a period of one year. Wages in most instances are not less favourable than those paid to residents of the United States Virgin Islands. At the end of 1960 it was estimated that more than 10 per cent. of the total population of the Colony was employed on contract in the United States Virgin Islands.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Except for Government servants, store clerks and domestic servants, workers are employed on a daily wage system. The normal working day is eight hours (except for civil servants), and workers are usually paid over-time at the rate of time and a half on week days and public holidays, and double time on Sundays. Wage rates are mainly determined by those paid in the United States Virgin Islands.

Wage Scales, 1958 and 1960

Class of Worker	1958		1960	
	Daily wages (8 hours)		Daily wages (8 hours)	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$	\$	\$	\$
MANUAL				
General unskilled	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.50
Semi-skilled	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.50
Skilled	3.25	4.50	4.00	5.50
Bulldozer operators	6.00	6.50	6.50	7.75
SUPERVISORY				
Foreman, semi-skilled	3.25	3.50	4.00	5.00
Foreman, skilled	5.00	7.00	8.00	10.00
	Monthly wages		Monthly wages	
PERSONAL SERVICES				
Domestic servants, waiters	14.00	25.00	25.00	35.00
Shop clerks	25.00	30.00	35.00	50.00

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Provision is made under the Virgin Island Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950) for the establishment of a Labour Department and the appointment of a Labour Commissioner, but up to the end of 1960 it had not been found necessary to apply the provisions of the law. There are also laws relating to the establishment of minimum wages, the employment of women and children, the prohibition of the employment of young children and the settlement of trade disputes. Labour matters were dealt with by an administrative officer in the Administrator's Office.

In 1959 the Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State visited the Colony.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The only labour organisations in the Colony are the Civil Service Association and the Teachers Association. There is no form of collective bargaining. The Government daily wage rates, which are fixed by the Legislature, are the basic rates in the Colony and private constructors normally pay higher rates. Negotiations on wages whether with Government or private enterprise are conducted on an individual *ad hoc* basis.

There were no serious labour disputes or strikes during the period under review.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1937 as amended provides for compensation of workmen injured on their jobs. During 1959 and 1960 there were six claims for compensation by Government employees and a total of \$86.64 was paid in compensation. There is no legislation making it compulsory for private enterprise to carry insurance for workmen but as far as can be ascertained one employer does carry such insurance. New legislation is contemplated to replace the now antiquated Workmen's Compensation Act of 1937.

The Tortola Shipyard Ltd., one of the principal employers of labour, gives permanent employees two weeks' paid leave a year and assumes responsibility for medical attention to employees injured on the job.

There is no labour inspector in the Colony, but from reports received there were no serious accidents or injuries in private enterprise during the period under review.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Land Use Survey Team (see page 6) emphasised strongly the need for a programme of industrial training, but there are as yet no official schemes in operation for vocational training or apprenticeship within the Colony. Private contractors however take on boys who have left the post-primary school as apprentices to masons, carpenters and plumbers, at a daily rate of \$2. 50. They usually serve for three or four years, their daily rates increasing according to output until eventually they become journeymen. Even this unorganised system suffers from emigration to the United States Virgin Islands, where the boys are able to earn substantially better wages. The Tortola Shipyard Ltd. also takes on boys as apprentices in its machine shop and boatyard.

Seven boys who were given scholarships at the Vocational Training School in Puerto Rico under the International Co-operation Administration training programme in 1958 returned to the Colony in 1959. Of the seven only two remained in the Colony; the others found employment in St. Thomas or emigrated to the United Kingdom. In 1959 five trainees went to Puerto Rico under the I.C.A. training programme for courses in construction drafting, diesel mechanics, automobile mechanics, autobody repair and painting, and electricity. After successfully completing the courses, three left the Colony—one for the United States of America and two for the United States Virgin Islands.

In 1960 two trainees were sent on I.C.A. courses—one in electricity and one in tropical forestry. Both were, however, civil servants and were bonded to serve for a prescribed period after their return to the Colony.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE financial year is the calendar year. Since 1958 Government accounts have been kept in the currency of the United States of America with the exception of some sub-accounts which are kept in West Indian currency. Postage stamps although marked in British West Indian currency are sold for the equivalent in United States currency; example, a BWI 12 cent stamp is sold for U.S. 7 cents.

Since 1951 Government revenue collected locally has not been sufficient to meet the increasing needs of the Colony for improved social services and the development of public works. The shortfall between revenue collected locally and approved expenditure is met by a block grant of funds from the United Kingdom. Although local revenues have shown an upward trend of some 20 per cent. per annum over the past two years, demands for improved and additional services coupled with increased costs of materials and services (which are more closely related to the economy of the United States than that of the United Kingdom) have outstripped the revenue raising capacity of local resources. The grant in aid from the United Kingdom has shown an increase of some 75 per cent. in the two years under review.

Details of local revenue and grants in aid over the past five years are as follows:

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 (revised Estimates)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Revenue	164,000	160,000	123,000	154,000	180,000
Grant-in-aid	192,000	244,000	286,000	294,000	448,000
TOTAL	\$356,000	\$404,000	\$409,000	\$448,000	\$628,000

The relationship between local revenue and grant in aid and the total revenue expressed as a percentage of total revenue is as follows:

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Local Revenue	46%	40%	30%	34%	29%
Grant-in-aid	54%	60%	70%	66%	71%

The unusually high level of local revenue in 1956 and 1957 resulted from a new issue of stamps in 1956 and substantial purchases of the new issue by philatelists.

In addition to the grants in aid of administration funds are made available from the United Kingdom for approved development projects in the form of free grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. An amount of \$290,000 was allocated to the Colony in 1959 which, together with the unspent balance of previous allocations, gave an overall amount of \$490,300 for expenditure within the five year period ending 31st March 1964. Development schemes approved in 1959 and 1960 amounted to \$438,701. Expenditure in 1959 and 1960 on these and other schemes which had received earlier approval amounted to \$201,457. A statement of Colonial Development and Welfare scheme is set out at Appendix I, page 52.

The local loan for the electricity, cold storage and ice plant remained open during the period under review and by the end of 1960 \$98,000 had been subscribed out of an authorised ceiling of \$103,000, of which \$19,000 had been subscribed in the British Virgin Islands.

Details of revenue and expenditure for the two years under review are as follows:

<i>Revenue</i>		
	<i>1959 (actual)</i>	<i>1960 (revised Estimate)</i>
<i>From local sources</i>		
Import duties	\$ 61,528	\$ 72,900
Export duties	1,568	3,100
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues	994	1,100
Income tax	10,003	6,000
Passenger tax	3,955	6,000
Other taxes, licences and duties	13,968	16,043
Fees of Court and payments for specific services	17,492	15,931
Self-balancing projects	23,648	29,943
Post Office	13,618	14,186
Other revenue	7,485	15,175
Total local revenue	154,259	180,378
<i>From United Kingdom</i>		
(i) Grant-in-aid	293,850	448,066
Total	448,109	628,444
(ii) Development and Welfare	93,926	146,334
TOTAL	\$542,035	\$774,778

Expenditure

	1959 (actual) \$	1960 (revised Estimate) \$
Debt charges	6,075	6,352
Pensions	17,127	13,230
Governor	6,705	—
Administration	61,505	71,862
Legislature	7,897	11,980
Treasury and Customs	24,622	29,304
Agriculture	30,414	37,119
Audit	2,410	2,698
Education	78,506	109,819
Judicial and Legal	11,280	14,073
Medical and Health	58,726	64,478
Miscellaneous	24,001	34,576
Police and Prison	19,552	26,817
Post Office	9,330	8,677
Public Works (recurrent)	98,079	134,880
Public Works (extraordinary)	24,593	64,512
Total	480,822	630,377
C.D. & W. Schemes	93,926	146,334
TOTAL	\$574,748	\$776,711
Public Debt	96,717	98,583

Although local revenue is low compared with expenditure on Government services this does not necessarily mean that tax rates are low. In one or two instances, for example income tax, they are not low and may in fact be proving a discouragement to local investment and the attraction of foreign capital. In 1960 a local committee was appointed to review the system of taxation with a view to finding ways and means of further stimulating capital formation and investment, and at the same time securing a greater financial contribution from local sources towards the cost of maintaining the public services. The committee has completed its investigation and its report is being considered. Among the changes which have been recommended is a proposal to reduce substantially the rates of personal income tax, company tax and stamp duty on the estates of deceased persons.

The main sources of revenue are indirect taxes on consumption, such as customs, and direct taxes, such as income, property, annual licences and estate duty.

Customs duties on imports are normally 12 per cent. *ad valorem* under the general tariff and 8 per cent. *ad valorem* under the preferential tariff. A small export duty is charged on the exportation of livestock and on certain items of agricultural produce. The export tax on livestock was increased with effect from 1st January 1960.

Income tax on personal income is graduated from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the first \$400 of chargeable income to $67\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. where the chargeable income exceeds \$6,000. Residence and family allowances which are fixed by law are deductible from gross income, as well as depreciation and trade losses in the case of a business. Residence and family allowances are: for a single person \$400; for a married couple \$640 and for each child under the age of sixteen \$160. The rate of company tax is 39.375 per cent.

Property taxes on land and houses are payable annually. The rates of land tax are 20 cents an acre up to five acres and 10 cents an acre for each additional acre. House tax is 1 per cent. of the assessed notional annual income value.

Annual licences are payable on motor vehicles and boats and there is also an annual tax on horses, mules, asses and dogs, and on the sale or production of intoxicating liquors. But these charges are on the whole very low.

The duty on the estate of a deceased person is chargeable on a scale from 1 per cent. to a maximum of 15 per cent.; where the property passes on the death of the deceased to the next of kin, only half these rates is chargeable. The maximum charge is applicable only on estates of and above \$224,000 in net aggregate value. No estate duty is chargeable when the aggregate value of the property is \$280 or less.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Colony is in perhaps a unique currency position. It has no currency of its own but the currencies of both the West Indies and the United States of America are legal tender. The currency of the United States which had been the *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades became legal tender in 1959. The only currency now used in practice is that of the United States. The Colony is a part of the sterling area however. But conversion within the Colony from one currency to the other is unrestricted. Control is exercised over the amount of sterling area currency which may be transferred to the Colony for investment or for conversion into United States dollars.

The only bank operating in the Colony during 1959 and 1960 was the Government Savings Bank, existing primarily to encourage savings. The rate of interest on deposits is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the maximum deposit which may be made by an individual is \$4,200. Non-resident accounts are not normally permitted.

The accounts of the Savings Bank are kept in United States dollars and depositors are entitled to receive United States currency on withdrawal of their deposits. The following statement indicates the number of depositors and the total deposits held each year including interest credited:

		\$
1956	581	96,090
1957	665	99,727
1958	711	112,214
1959	800	142,162
1960	950	182,560

Savings Bank funds are kept in the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas or are invested by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations.

The Government operates a current account with the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas and with the Royal Bank of Canada in Puerto Rico and permits sterling transfers to the Colony through these facilities. In addition, the Government has provided the facility to local residents of cashing certified bank cheques or bank drafts.

The Government has been making strenuous efforts for several years to secure the establishment of a commercial bank in the Colony. In 1959, these efforts were renewed on a new basis: the Government offered, as an incentive, to remove in regard to alien banks the restrictions in the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act applying to aliens in connection with the acquisition of land by purchase or mortgage so that where any land was mortgaged to a bank, the bank, in the event of foreclosure or sale, would be free to deal with or dispose of such land without restriction notwithstanding whether the purchaser was an alien or not and the purchaser of such land would also likewise be free to sell to a British subject or an alien without restriction.

In response to these efforts the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas has undertaken to establish a branch in the Colony during 1961.

Chapter 5: Commerce*

THE commerce of the Colony depends largely on livestock production and to a lesser extent on fish, fruit and vegetables. Considerable quantities of sand and gravel used for construction in St. Thomas and St. John were also exported in 1960.

A small part of the Colony's demands for foodstuffs is met by local production but the bulk of the needs are met by imports from other countries, mainly the United States of America.

Although imports from the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries are subject to a preferential rate of duty, the Colony's trade is carried on principally with the United States of America, United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The United States Virgin Islands continued to be the principal destination of exports of local produce.

The direction of trade was as follows:

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports</i>				<i>Exports</i>			
	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>
	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>
U.S.A., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	525	485	519	651	93	93	117	146
United Kingdom	105	85	80	115	—	—	—	—
Leeward Islands	53	43	33	37	1	12	—	—
Other Foreign Countries	11	26	29	32	57	61	25	36
Other Commonwealth Countries	24	26	26	22	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	718	665	687	857	151	166	142	182

It will be seen that the Colony continued to have an adverse trade balance but this was offset by remittances from British Virgin Islanders employed in the Virgin Islands of the United States, from earnings derived from coast-wise trading sloops plying between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, from tourist expenditure and expenditure by foreign residents and from United Kingdom funds, including grants in aid of administration and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

Imports and exports in the years 1957 to 1960 were as follows:

* All values are in U.S. dollars.

Commodities	Import by Value				Import by Quantity			
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1957	1958	1959	1960
Timber	\$ 43,293	\$ 35,771	\$ 35,590	\$ 45,956	262,300 ft.	242,991 ft.	252,767 ft.	308,864 ft.
Machinery (all kinds)	2,271	40,330	9,734	44,557	—	900,816 lb.	920,702 lb.	764,302 lb.
Flour	61,431	53,005	50,164	39,706	993,720 lb.	95,708 gal.	121,106 gal.	170,535 gal.
Oils (unrefined)	23,721	22,558	29,851	35,741	632,498 lb.	528,817 lb.	541,668 lb.	744,974 lb.
Sugar	37,830	30,845	35,376	33,261	12,199 gal.	13,431 gal.	18,288 gal.	20,350 gal.
Beer, Ale, Stout, Porter	18,678	17,025	27,614	31,812	—	—	—	—
Hardware	6,872	14,120	22,035	32,785	—	—	—	—
Apparel	12,930	14,744	18,195	29,538	2,464,834 lb.	2,643,203 lb.	3,079,440 lb.	2,668,754 lb.
Cement	24,164	26,281	27,724	26,246	—	—	—	—
Electrical Apparatus	22,175	24,775	19,540	26,003	—	—	—	—
Motor Cars	—	11,603	23,568	25,384	—	11 no.	21 no.	20 no.
Spirits	9,373	14,765	20,158	21,443	1,952 gal.	3,328 gal.	5,481 gal.	5,796 gal.
Meats (all kinds)	12,081	17,387	18,025	21,585	28,737 lb.	38,922 lb.	37,765 lb.	46,264 lb.
Milk (tinued)	12,925	14,880	15,113	21,136	—	—	—	—
Haberdashery	11,317	10,938	10,844	15,117	—	—	—	—
Boots and Shoes	21,120	12,574	10,694	14,491	10,060 pr.	5,854 pr.	7,028 pr.	6,705 pr.
Aerated Waters	8,229	4,758	5,368	10,619	19,812 gal.	9,283 gal.	12,186 gal.	24,224 gal.
Other	389,711	298,524	307,980	381,215	—	—	—	—
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL IMPORTS	\$718,121	\$664,883	\$687,573	\$856,595				
					Export by Quantity			
Livestock	\$ 108,966	\$ 120,727	\$ 102,230	\$ 126,965	3,783 hd.	3,105 no.	2,587 no.	3,080 no.
Fruit (fresh)	2,512	4,741	6,975	14,244	—	—	—	—
Fish (fresh)	8,781	7,147	8,113	13,377	56,760 lb.	37,285 lb.	49,119 lb.	72,225 lb.
Vegetables (all kinds)	4,101	6,918	3,702	9,236	—	—	—	—
Local Rum	9,652	6,522	7,274	6,164	3,038 gal.	2,230 gal.	2,853 gal.	1,745 gal.
Gravel and Sand	—	—	—	3,727	—	—	—	1,260 ton
Charcoal	4,093	4,858	3,922	2,975	2,705 barrels	2,466 barrels	1,936 barrels	1,496 barrels
Cement Blocks	—	—	—	1,342	—	—	—	7,105 no.
Other	12,484	14,785	9,946	4,368	—	—	—	—
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL EXPORTS	\$150,589	\$165,698	\$142,162	\$182,398				

Chapter 6: Production

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

THE total area of the Colony as calculated by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys in 1958 is 37,608 acres. Of this acreage Tortola, the largest island, contains 13,499 acres, Anegada 9,542 acres, Virgin Gorda 5,308 acres and Jost Van Dyke, 2,084 acres. The whole of Anegada, because of its hard coral formation, is unsuitable for any form of large-scale agricultural development, although the inhabitants plant fast growing food crops during the rainy season. Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke are the main agricultural islands. Several small islands though not cultivated are used for grazing small stock.

A team of consultants carried out a land use survey in 1959, and reported in 1960. The recommendations envisage:

- (a) keeping economically competitive agricultural land in production;
- (b) re-forestation of unproductive land, particularly the ridges and Crown land;
- (c) proper use of other areas for public recreation, tourism, permanent and seasonal residences.

The report has been accepted in principle by the Government and early consideration is being given to the extent to which the detailed recommendations can be implemented in the light of present circumstances and the funds available to the Government.

Information regarding land utilisation is likely to become available as a result of an agricultural census which is due to be held in 1961.

In 1960 the Beach Protection Ordinance (No. 3 of 1960) was passed. This empowers the Government to declare beaches protected and thus prevent the removal of sand and gravel which tend to denude the beach.

Types of Tenure

The prevailing type of land tenure is freehold, acquired by outright purchase, inheritance under will, or, on intestacy, by inheritance in equal shares by all the children subject only to the interest of a surviving spouse. Restrictions are placed on the alienation of land under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act. There are few land titles in the Colony which are secure, other than where land has been acquired by the first purchaser from the Crown. Interminable

property disputes arising from this chaotic state have become a characteristic feature of Virgin Island life. The principal causes of disputes are uncertainty over devolution of title, or rights under tenancy in common, and uncertainty over boundaries. These disputes tend to cause shifting cultivation and other poor agricultural practices and preclude many farmers from benefiting from loans available through the Agricultural Credit Fund. Consideration has been given to the measures necessary to provide a solution to these problems, including legislative provision for clarification of titles by a land tribunal, coupled with a cadastral survey and a proper system of land titles registration.

In 1960 the Land Surveyors Ordinance (No. 13 of 1960) was passed providing for the licensing of surveyors to practise in the Colony. Mr. O. B. Rogers, Director of Surveyors, Jamaica, visited the British Virgin Islands in 1960 to advise on the need for survey staff in the light of existing conditions. As a result of his visit a surveyor was seconded from Jamaica.

Land Ownership

Land may be either privately or publicly owned. Publicly owned land is known as Crown land. Privately owned land may be owned by indigenous Virgin Islanders, non-indigenous British subjects or aliens. At the end of 1958 it was estimated that the Crown owned 14,755 acres, indigenous Virgin Islanders 18,279 acres, non-indigenous British subjects 1,901 acres and aliens 2,673 acres.

As a result of land transactions during 1959 and 1960 the position at the end of 1960 was as follows:

Crown lands	15,121 acres
Indigenous Virgin Islanders	17,982 "
Non-indigenous British subjects	1,717 "
Aliens	2,788 "

During 1959 and 1960 23 licences were issued to aliens under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act to hold as owner, lessee or co-tenant along with other aliens, a total of 182 acres of land in the Colony. Licences are granted on condition that some form of development, usually building construction, takes place within a stipulated period.

Crown land utilisation is as follows:

- 80 acres used as the Agricultural Station paddocks, Road Town
- 117 acres as National Parks.
- 261 acres as a Stock Holding Ground at Paraquita Bay.
- 4 acres as dipping vat sites.
- 256 acres leased to non-indigenous British subjects.
- 64 acres leased to aliens.
- 7 acres allotted for housing development.
- 700 acres rented to peasant farmers.

The rest remains idle or is used rent free by local residents.

Rental System

The Crown land on Anegada and Salt Island continues to be used by inhabitants free of rent, but elsewhere in the Colony Crown land is rented on annual tenancies, or on a month to month basis. Rental varies between 20 cents to \$3 an acre for agricultural land. In 1960 the policy regarding the leasing of Crown land was reviewed and a rental based on a figure between 3–6 per cent. of the unimproved value of the land subject to review every 25 years, was introduced. Between private persons the usual holding is by annual tenancy under verbal agreements for cash or consideration in kind, normally one-third of the produce.

The Agricultural Small Holding Act of 1938 provides security of tenure and compensation for improvements where tenancies are entered into under written contract or where the tenant has been in occupation or an annual tenancy.

Water Resources

The water resources of the Colony are mainly spring, wells, “guts” (in the rainy season) and roof catchments. Water points developed by the Public Works Department have played a valuable part in alleviating the water problem of the Colony. Householders are tending to construct more and larger concrete storage tanks with, in some cases, financial assistance provided by the Government under the Cistern Loan Fund. The average rainfall is 53 inches but it is erratic and uneven (for example, rainfall varied from 37.76 inches in 1959 to 71.52 inches in 1960), and consequently there are recurrent droughts when scarcity of water is a constant problem. A study of the water resources of the Colony was carried out by Mr. P. H. A. Martin-Kaye in 1951–52.

Soil conservation continues to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture. No legislation was enacted regarding soil and water conservation, but the preliminary work for the protection of three “guts” or valleys was completed, and it is hoped to enact the necessary legislation in 1961.

AGRICULTURE

General

The Land Use Survey Team recognised the fact that the islands are exceptionally well endowed with the finest of natural resources for tourist development—accessibility, climate, scenic beauty of hills, beaches and the surrounding waters—but confirmed that agriculture

should continue to be the major land use. There are several factors, however, which tend to militate against agricultural development—the scattered nature and rugged topography of the islands, erratic rainfall with prolonged periods of severe drought, steady employment offered for better remuneration in the tourist industry in the nearby United States Virgin Islands, large quantities of refrigerated food imported from the continental United States into the U.S. Virgin Islands, the absence of organised marketing arrangements and the small average acreage (holdings of 2 to 5 acres) available to peasants for agricultural purposes. In spite of these difficulties the Government is making every effort to encourage agricultural production, especially the production of fruit and vegetables.

The low rainfall in 1959 (37.76 inches) led to drought conditions such as were experienced in 1957. The rainfall in 1960 (71.52 inches) was the highest recorded for twenty-four years. Rainfall in the month of May 1960 measured 13.36 inches reaching flood proportions on 8th May. Damage to crops was, however, not severe.

Hurricane "Donna" which struck the Colony in September devastated all the food crops on Anegada and on some of the cultivated areas on the north coast of Tortola.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of policy in regard to crop and animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries. During the period under review the staff included a Superintendent of Agriculture, three agricultural assistants, one chief stockman, one forest ranger and one farm foreman.

The agricultural assistants and the forest ranger are primarily concerned with the extension work of the Department.

Policy is directed towards the development of the livestock industry as the basis of the agricultural economy of the Colony. The activities of the department are organised so as to maintain and improve animal health, increase production through breeding methods and improve and extend pastures; provide planting material for crop husbandry; protect forests and conserve soil and water; and encourage fishing largely through the medium of a loan scheme.

Besides the Agricultural and Fisheries Loan Scheme, the Department of Agriculture administered three schemes relating to agriculture financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Scheme D2717 (42). | Pilot Project—Production of green vegetables. |
| Scheme D2788A & B. | Grass Production and Demonstration. |
| Scheme D2794. | Stock Farm. |

The scheme for the production of green vegetables has not been as successful as it might have been due largely to erratic rainfall. The heavy rain in May 1960 almost washed out the demonstration plot. The scheme for grass production and demonstration which deals primarily with the production of pangola grass and the demonstration of improved methods of pasture management has proved its worth. Pangola grass is more nutritious than guinea grass and is more resistant to drought; it is ideally suited for the Colony and farmers who have now been convinced of its value are increasing their planting.

During 1960 the amount for the Stock Farm at Paraquita Bay was supplemented by a further grant of \$89,154 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds thus bringing the total to \$115,310. Work on clearing the land was accelerated during 1960 and at the end of the year it was estimated that 100 acres had been cleared.

Agricultural Shows were held in 1959 and 1960. There is no record of the number of animals exhibited in 1959, but in 1960 there were 224. Special emphasis has been laid on the development of pangola grass and the standard of the pastures exhibited was high.

In 1959 Mr. G. M. Roddan, Deputy Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, paid a short visit to the Colony during which he was able to visit the proposed Stock Holding Ground at Paraquita Bay.

Crop Husbandry

The principal crops grown in the Colony during the period under review were:

Sugar cane. Cane is grown principally for the manufacture of rum. Some 80 acres yielding approximately 600 tons were planted in sugar cane during 1959 and 1960. Two thousand eight hundred and fifty-three gallons of rum were exported in 1959 and 1,745 gallons in 1960.

Limes. The acreage under cultivation is small but limes fetch reasonably high prices in the export market. The export of limes yielded \$354 for 175 barrels in 1959 and \$603 for 78 barrels in 1960.

Coconuts. It is estimated that some 100 acres are under cultivation in coconuts with a yield of 50,000 nuts. Coconuts are in demand locally as pig and poultry feed. Exports in 1959 amounted to 36,849 nuts valued at \$2,000 and in 1960, 31,368 nuts valued at \$2,102.

Bananas. Production is estimated to be 3,000 bunches from 50 acres under cultivation. Two thousand three hundred and forty-five bunches were exported in 1959 and 1,614 bunches in 1960. Bananas are in short supply locally and there has been a marked

increase in imports from Puerto Rico. The Department of Agriculture is giving consideration to the introduction of new varieties in order to increase yields.

Food Crops. Although the value of exports in 1960 showed a considerable increase over the previous year, the overall production of food crops has declined in recent years mainly due to the emigration of labour. This has led to the increased importation from Puerto Rico of such commodities as sweet potatoes, yams, tannias, plantains, tomatoes and cabbages.

Production Methods

All the farms are peasant-owned and are operated on a family basis with practically no wage labour but with a certain amount of free reciprocal farm help. Cultivation is entirely by hand implements, there being no animal-drawn or power-driven agricultural machinery of any type. The system of cultivation is shifting or rotational, alternating from food crops to pastures and ultimately to secondary bush. The cycle begins again after the land has rested for a period of two or three years. Pastures are usually cleared by burning, a practice which the Department of Agriculture is trying to discourage. Most of the fertile land is to be found on hill slopes at the higher elevations and in the valleys, and there is an absence of permanent terraces, manuring and systematic rotation of crops. The soils of the Colony are for the greater part too light to sustain permanent cultivation, except for pasture grass, the cultivation of which in a permanent form is the principal agricultural activity.

Marketing

Produce is marketed direct to the consumer by the producer himself or his family, or is sold in St. Thomas, the sole export market, through an agent, usually the captain of a sloop, who takes the commodities and sells them for the producer. The producer not infrequently, however, takes the produce himself to St. Thomas for sale. Although this method of marketing is extremely wasteful of his time, production as a whole has been on too small a scale to justify, or cause any demand for, the establishment of organised marketing facilities.

A weekly market is held in Road Town on Saturdays. The site used is not ideally suited for the purpose and during 1959 a new site was purchased at a cost of \$5,000. The funds were made available from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. No plans have yet been made for the construction of a proper building on the site.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

General

The livestock industry continues to be the backbone of the economy, the islands being topographically and climatically suited to the cultivation of grass and the production of livestock. The Department of Agriculture has continued to encourage cattle farmers to improve pastures in order to raise the standard of animals produced. To assist in the attempt to improve the standards Legislative Council passed a resolution exempting animal foods imported into the Colony from payment of customs duty.

An area of approximately 200 acres at Paraquita Bay, Tortola was acquired by Government in 1959 for the establishment of a Stock Holding Ground as envisaged in the Report and Development Programme submitted by Mr. A. de K. Frampton, C.M.G. and Major H. C. Biggs in 1958. It is intended that the Holding Ground should ultimately cover some 300 acres. Animals which farmers are obliged to sell before maturity will be purchased by the Government and will be held for a period of some three to six months when they will either be exported or sold to local farmers. The scheme which is being financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds in the first instance will be self-supporting. By the end of 1960 about 100 acres of land had been cleared and some 40 acres had been fenced and planted with pangola grass.

Livestock

Cattle. Exports increased from 862 head in 1959 to 1,205 head in 1960. Prices remained the same as in 1958, i.e. 14-15 cents a pound liveweight in the Colony and 16-17 cents a pound in St. Thomas. Both anaplasmosis and piroplasmosis were diagnosed, but the cases were confined to a single herd with a loss of four animals; all other cases in the herd were successfully treated.

Sheep and Goats. The demand for these animals is steadily increasing. Breeding stock from the Agricultural Station is still limited. During 1960 stock raisers in Anegada suffered heavy losses of goats as a result of hurricane "Donna." It was estimated that some 60 animals were destroyed and the Department of Agriculture is replacing the loss with improved breed.

Pigs. There has been no decline in pig raising. Although there have been no cases of swine fever, inoculations continued to be given as a preventive measure.

Horses. Horses, mules and donkeys are still the chief method of transport in many parts of the islands and their continued breeding is, therefore, a necessity. Twenty-seven horses and four mules were exported to the French West Indies in 1960. There is some interest in breeding horses for racing and it is proposed to replace the Government stallion which died in 1959.

Poultry. Although refrigerated chicken is easily available, the local preference for fresh meat and eggs has led to the establishment of four organised poultry farms.

Marketing. While there is no marketing organisation the Department of Agriculture provides inspection and weighing services. Traders from the French West Indies buy cattle by live weight direct from the farmer for cash. The pattern of shipping livestock to the Virgin Islands of the United States by the owner is disappearing and, generally speaking, such purchases are made by a local trader who is in touch with the St. Thomas butchers.

Efforts to improve Production

Breeding Programme. The Department of Agriculture's 80-acre Stock Farm at Road Town, Tortola continued to produce grade-cattle and pure-bred sheep, goats and pigs for sale to farmers, and for stud and breeding purposes. Sales in 1959-60 were as follows:

			1959	1960
Cattle	.	.	7	6
Sheep	.	.	3	5
Goats	.	.	7	5
Pigs	.	.	15	16

Pasture Management. Because of irregular rainfall and primitive methods of cultivation, pasture management is regarded as an important factor in the development of the livestock industry. The eight five-acre demonstration plots introduced in 1956 have undoubtedly proved their worth. A number of stock raisers have seen the benefits of pangola grass, systematic grazing and good fencing. There is a steady demand for pangola grass and it is estimated that since its introduction in the Colony over 200 acres have been planted. Efforts are also being made to encourage farmers to use fertilisers and manure.

Agricultural Credit. This scheme designed for pasture improvement has been of considerable benefit to farmers. During 1959 and 1960 the following loans were issued by the Department of Agriculture:

1959	55 loans totalling \$11,315.00
1960	27 loans totalling \$6,015.00

Loans are issued against the land as security. For the purpose of obtaining a loan the land is valued at \$60 an acre and a farmer can borrow two-thirds of the value of the land, the maximum amount of any loan being \$1,000. Consideration is being given to increasing the nominal value of the land so that farmers may obtain larger loans. The shortage of labour for local employment militates against the fullest benefit being obtained from this scheme.

FORESTRY

Ninety-two acres of the Sage Mountain Forest on Tortola were acquired during 1959 with funds presented to the Government by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. The area included all the remains of the xerophytic rain forest together with some denuded lands. At the end of 1960, 74 acres had been fenced and most of the denuded area planted with cedar seedlings.

Except for this fragment of xerophytic rain forest on Sage Mountain, Tortola, and an even smaller area of forest cover on Virgin Peak, Virgin Gorda, there are no forests in the Colony although there is some dense growth of secondary woodland on the higher elevations and bordering hillside "guts" in Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

The conservation and extension of forests and wooded areas present no practical technical difficulties, but most of the land is owned in small lots by peasant proprietors and, as was found in the process of acquiring Sage Mountain Forest, conservation will present sociological and political problems. People are, however, beginning to recognize the need for conservation and the forestry programme should become progressively simpler to implement.

The land around three of the main "guts" or valleys in Tortola has been demarcated and the areas will be declared protected areas under the provisions of the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance, 1954.

The Department of Agriculture maintains a forestry nursery and trees are given to farmers on request free of charge as part of a re-afforestation programme.

The forest ranger attended a three-month course in tropical forestry in Puerto Rico in 1960.

A forest nursery was established at Sage Mountain during 1960 with funds made available from Scheme D3573—Forestry and Soil Conservation, and the Department of Agriculture was actively engaged in collecting food forest crops for distribution to farmers which will serve a dual purpose.

FISHING*Fishing Areas and Methods of Fishing*

The coastal waters of the Colony abound with considerable quantities of fish; there are also many offshore banks which could be exploited by using deep-sea methods. Fishing activities are conducted mainly within the coastal areas. The principal methods of catching fish are by fish traps, line fishing and seines. The chief fishing centres in descending order of importance are Anegada, Peter and Salt Islands, West End (Tortola) and Jost Van Dyke. The typical fishing boat is a fore and aft rigged sloop about 18–24 feet overall, sometimes with a live well tank. There is a trend to use diesel inboard motors in these boats and six such engines have been installed in fishing boats. Smaller boats powered by outboard motors are also becoming common.

Marketing

Almost the entire catch is marketed direct to the consumer by the fishing boats. Small shipments are also delivered at sea by fishing boats to the commercial launches on their way to St. Thomas for marketing. The price of fish is 16 cents a pound locally and between 24–30 cents a pound in St. Thomas. A Fishermen's Council assists in fixing the local price of fish.

Statistics

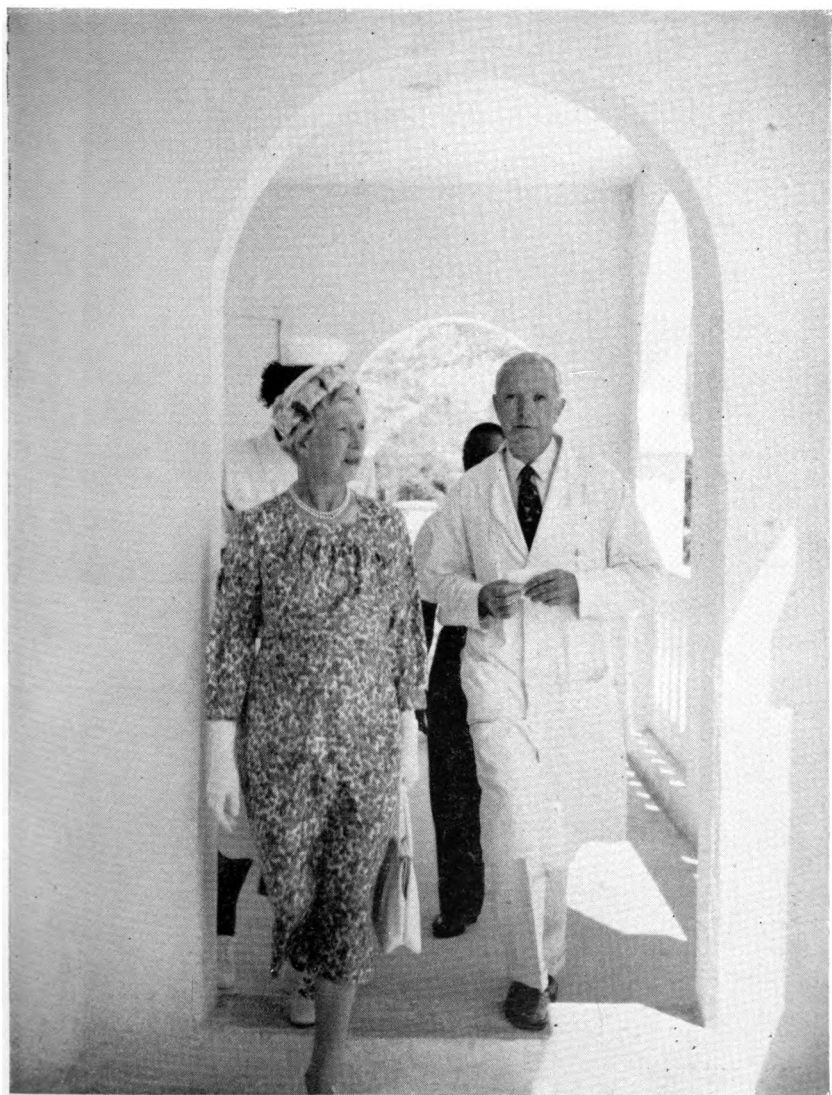
The recorded exports of fresh fish over the past four years have been as follows:

1957	.	.	.	.	56,760 lb.
1958	.	.	.	.	37,285 lb.
1959	.	.	.	.	49,119 lb.
1960	.	.	.	.	72,225 lb.

The records cannot however be accepted as accurate because of the practice of taking fish at sea from small fishing boats by commercial passenger launches for sale in St. Thomas. Except in Anegada few people live entirely by fishing and few boats could be classified exclusively as fishing boats.

The only form of assistance provided by Government is the Fisheries Credit Scheme under which loans are granted to fishermen to purchase fishing gear and engines. During 1959 and 1960 the number of loans issued was:

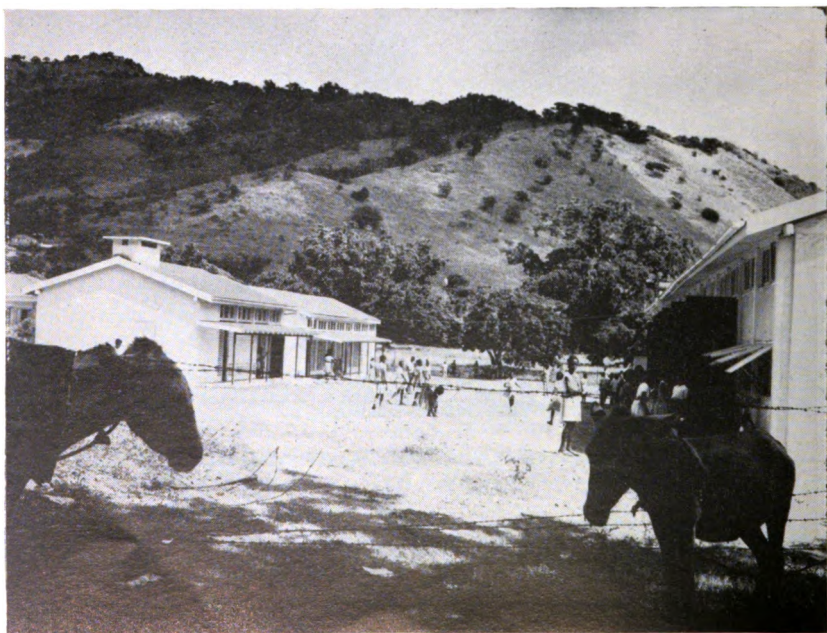
1959	7 loans totalling \$1,525.00
1960	10 loans totalling \$3,269.25



Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal visits the Public Hospital, Tortola



*Loading livestock on a sloop bound for St. Thomas, United States
Virgin Islands*



*Children playing outside the Road Town Primary School. The donkeys
tethered in the foreground are ridden to school by children living at a distance*

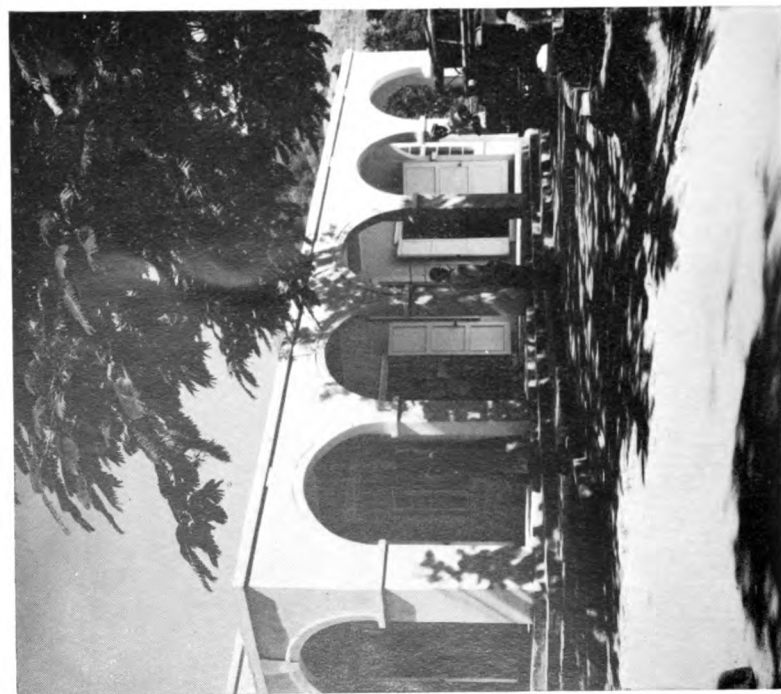


*General view of Road Town, the capital and chief port of the
British Virgin Islands*



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Road construction at Manuel Hill, Tortola



The Legislative Council Chamber and Court House, Road Town



Boatyard at Baughers Bay, Tortola

MINING

A geological survey completed in 1955 revealed that copper indications are common in the Colony, there being scarcely a cay on which some malachite stains cannot be found. Mineralisation is most prominent on the island of Virgin Gorda where copper ores, including native copper, were raised from an old mine last operated in 1867. The survey showed that the copper is evidently accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenite. This mine, which is situated on Government land on which most of the mineralisation in Virgin Gorda occurs, is being investigated for copper and molybdenum by a private mining concern and a 40-inch vein of molybdenum has been found. The lease to prospect was extended for a period of two years from April 1960. There is no minerals vesting law but there is legislation in force controlling the prospecting, mining and export of radio-active minerals.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The economy of the Colony is largely agricultural but there are a number of manufacturing industries which diversify the economy to a limited extent. These include the distillation of rum for local consumption and export to the United States Virgin Islands. Owing to a shortage of labour locally the cultivation of sugar cane from which the rum is manufactured has declined. There are seven rum distilleries all of which are situated on the island of Tortola. Boat building continues to meet the demand for sloops and boats for inter-island trade and communications. The rapidly increasing demand for improved building materials is met by six hollow concrete block-making plants of which one is situated at Carrott Bay, two in Road Town, two in Long Look, Tortola, and one at Virgin Gorda Valley. During 1960 the aerated water factory ceased operation, but it is expected to open again under new management in 1961. The Government owns an ice plant which is capable of producing two tons of ice a day, but only on rare occasions has there been a demand for the maximum output. Straw and basket work on a cottage industry basis continues to benefit many people. The work is distributed through a Home Industries Shop operated for the benefit of the producers.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

The education system is administered by a Board of Education which advises the Government on all questions of policy and by an Education Officer, appointed under the provisions of the Education Ordinance, 1955, who is responsible for the implementation of policy decisions.

The general management and supervision of primary schools is the responsibility of the managers, staff matters being dealt with by a Primary Schools Commission which consists of the managers of Government and assisted schools, with the Education Officer as chairman and executive officer.

The management of the Government Secondary School is the responsibility of its principal.

Legislation

The Board of Education made regulations (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 30 of 1959) in respect of secondary, primary and community schools superseding regulations made in 1926. The Primary Schools Commission promulgated general orders (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 10 of 1960) setting out conditions of service for teachers in primary schools.

Primary Education

There are three types of primary school—Government, assisted and private. A Government school is established and maintained wholly from public funds; an assisted school receives grants from public funds. Assisted schools may be primary or community schools, the latter being small schools in which the teaching is confined almost exclusively to the basic subjects and which are operated by private persons in areas where primary schools have not been established. A private school is a school attended by 12 or more children, not being a Government or assisted school.

There has been no change in the number of schools, i.e. 1 Government, 12 assisted (10 Methodist, 2 Anglican), 3 community, and 1 private.

School enrolment in 1959 was 2,173 but dropped in 1960 to 2,122 due perhaps to children going to live with parents working in the United States Virgin Islands.

Good progress in organisation and supervision was made in 1959; 1960 saw the introduction of a curriculum which brought a new and modern approach to the work of primary schools including the practical subjects. The physical conditions, however, still leave much to be desired.

Secondary Education

There is one co-educational secondary school in the Colony which prepares pupils for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate. The curriculum comprises English, religious knowledge, social studies, Latin, Spanish, science, mathematics, home economics and wood-work. In the period under review enrolment was as follows:

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1959	25	80	105
1960	35	89	124

There was some improvement in the staffing position. Science subjects were offered for the first time and the first Grade I Certificate was obtained at the 1959 School Certificate Examination. The first attempt at the Higher School Certificate was made in 1960.

Teachers

The following table shows the qualifications of teachers in all schools:

Teachers, 1959 and 1960

	<i>Secondary Schools</i>		<i>Primary Schools</i>		<i>Community Schools</i>		<i>Private Schools</i>	
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
Graduates	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trained	2	2	13	17	—	—	1	1
Untrained with School Certificate or Leeward Islands Teachers Certificate	5	4	11	14	—	—	—	—
Untrained with no Certificate	—	—	18	17	5	5	1	1
Pupil Teachers	—	—	24	28	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	9	66	72	5	5	2	2

Teachers are trained at the Leeward Islands Teachers Training College, Antigua, which is run jointly by the Governments of Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

Two in-service courses were run in 1959 and two in 1960 by personnel from the University College of the West Indies.

A Teachers Institute which was organised in 1959 was very helpful to qualifying teachers. In Government and assisted primary schools at the end of 1960 24 per cent. of the teachers were trained, 19 per cent. held teaching qualifications, 18 per cent. held no teaching

qualification (11 per cent. were holders of School Certificates and 7 per cent. are products of the pupil teacher system preparing for qualifying examinations). The remaining 39 per cent. were pupil teachers but in this category the emphasis has shifted from academic qualifications to teaching skill.

A regrading scheme for teachers was approved in 1959 with a considerable improvement in salaries.

Education Extension

The library service remains the only organised form of extension work. At the end of 1960 an increase of 2,040 issues was recorded, making a total of 13,448 or 9.9 per registered borrower. Efforts were made with some success to organise school-community associations as a base for further extension work.

Expenditure

The cost of education for 1959-60 was as follows:

	1959	1960
	\$	\$
Primary Education	55,501	63,775
Secondary Education	15,070	17,474
Teacher Training	655	1,473
Other Education	1,329	1,620
Administrative (non-allocated)	5,263	4,880
Non-recurrent	688	204
TOTAL	<u>\$78,506</u>	<u>\$89,426</u>

General

The challenge to raise educational standards, contained in the report of the Committee to review the Education System submitted in 1958, has been met with considerable vigour by all concerned. It was gratifying to note that the general forward movement in education was readily apparent to visitors to the Colony.

PUBLIC HEALTH

General Health

In general, the health of the Colony for the period under review has been good. The main causes of ill-health remain malnutrition and poor sanitation. Too little fruit and vegetables is grown locally and a considerable quantity of what is grown finds its way to the St. Thomas market. As a result there is a dietary deficiency in the Colony. Sanitary conditions leave much to be desired. Areas of

bush often serve as communal latrines and the effect is shown in a high incidence of gastro-enteritis in infancy and of ascaris infestation.

There have been no epidemics of disease in the period under review. One case of enteric fever was discovered in 1959 and one in 1960. There were no medical repercussions as a result of hurricane "Donna" which struck the Colony in September 1960, but T.A.B. inoculations were given to the inhabitants of Anegada. The Colony continues to be free from malaria, yaws, hookworm and leprosy. In co-operation with the World Health Organisation a campaign for the eradication of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito was begun in February 1960. Of a total of 1,957 houses in the Colony, 1,652 were sprayed at the initial survey and 785 were positive. At the end of the year 1,887 were sprayed and 169 were positive. The index was therefore reduced from 48 per cent. to 9 per cent.

Vital Statistics

The population of the Colony was estimated at 7,600 in 1959. According to the preliminary figures of the 1960 census the population was 7,338. The following table shows births and deaths in the period under review:

	1959	1960
Number of births	306	279
Number of deaths	84	67
Number of deaths under 1 year	37	22
Number of deaths under 1 month	12	11
Number of still births	6	2

On the basis of the estimated population in 1959 and the census returns for 1960 the following figures emerge:

	1959	1960
Crude birth rate per thousand	40.3	38.0
Crude death rate per thousand	11.1	9.1
Infant mortality rate per thousand	120.9	78.9
Neonatal death rate per thousand	39.2	39.4
Still-birth rate per thousand	10.6	7.2

The still-birth rate which was 50.5 per thousand in 1957 and which declined sharply in 1958 shows a further decline but neonatal deaths remain roughly the same over the past four years. There has been a welcome decline in the infant mortality rate from 133.3 in 1958. It is realised that the health services must be strengthened but the lack of funds and shortage of staff are still serious deterrents. Plans continue to be made, however, and the next two years should see some definite improvements.

Staff and Institutions

The medical and health services are provided entirely by the Government. They are administered by a Superintendent of Medical Services who is also chairman of the Board of Health. He is assisted by a medical officer. Both Government doctors are allowed private practice.

Free clinics for children and indigents are held regularly in Road Town three times weekly, at East End twice weekly and at Cane Garden Bay, Carrott Bay and West End once monthly. In the out-islands of Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke clinics are also scheduled once a month. Free patients seen at clinics were 2,829 in 1959 and 2,450 in 1960. Owing to the irregular operation of the Government launch it was not possible to maintain the monthly schedule in 1960.

Dental clinics for school children continue to be held each week on a part-time basis by the resident dentist. In 1959, 1,058 visits were made by school children compared with 1,047 in 1960.

The Government Hospital has been considerably expanded. There are now 32 beds for medical, surgical and maternity cases, two being in private rooms. There are five beds for tuberculosis patients and eight beds for inmates of the infirmary attached to the hospital. The casualty room, the X-ray and dark rooms and the operating theatre are all new or reconstructed. The operating theatre is now of good size and air-conditioned. Hospital and laboratory equipment is being improved gradually. Much remains to be done and a schedule of necessary alterations and improvements was drawn up by the Antigua Government architect who visited in 1960; they will be incorporated in a general development plan which will be carried out as soon as funds permit.

An enquiry into hospital facilities was carried out by Sir Rupert Briercliffe (formally Medical Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies) and the recommendations contained in his report submitted in September 1959 have been mainly adopted.

There were 555 admissions to the Government Hospital and 30 deaths in 1959; and 537 admissions and 22 deaths in 1960.

The nursing staff was particularly weak during the period under review. The laboratory technician undertook a nine-month course of study at the University College of the West Indies.

At the end of 1960 the establishment under the Superintendent of Medical Services included one medical officer, two laboratory technician/dispensers, one sanitary inspector, one matron, one staff nurse, six student nurses (in hospital) and three district nurses.

Expenditure

The total expenditure on the Medical and Health Services was \$58,726 in 1959 and \$64,478 in 1960.

HOUSING

By West Indian standards, housing in the Virgin Islands is good, although the average density per dwelling or per room appears to be high. It is expected that housing statistics will be available shortly from material collected in conjunction with the population census. The swing towards houses built of stone, poured concrete and hollow-concrete blocks mentioned in the previous report is now an established building trend. Very few new houses are built of timber and in new construction the typical rectangular house is being superseded by more modern designs. Thatched houses are fast disappearing. One hundred and twenty-three houses were built or enlarged in 1959 and 170 in 1960.

In Road Town there is an acute shortage of housing and a great demand for building sites. Government land in the Huntums Ghut and Macnamara areas on the outskirts of the town has been utilised during the past years for building development but the number of applications far exceeds the available sites.

A town planner visited the Colony in 1959 and preliminary consideration has been given to the future development of Road Town and East End/Long Look. Lack of funds will doubtless prevent any far reaching decisions.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare activities remain limited and unco-ordinated but, nevertheless, continue to play an important part in the life of the community. Except for public assistance there are no organised Government welfare services.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations continue to function but lack of able leadership remains a serious handicap to both movements. With the co-operation of Imperial Headquarters and the Boy Scouts Association of Jamaica and with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, a training officer visited the Colony for about 10 days in 1959 and ran a short training course.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued its work in first aid training and the local branch of the British Red Cross Society was reorganised on a firmer basis.

The ancillary organisations of the churches continued to play their part in general welfare work.

A comprehensive investigation into the payment of outdoor relief and the need that existed was undertaken by the Public Assistance

Committee in 1959, the result of which, it is felt, has been to ensure that the limited resources at the disposal of the committee benefit those most in need of assistance.

Chapter 8: Legislation

TWENTY-FIVE Ordinances were passed by the Legislature in 1959 and 13 in 1960.

1959

Of the Ordinances passed in 1959 the more important ones were:

- (i) the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, 1959, which consolidates and amends the law relating to the protection of wild birds and makes provision for the establishment of bird sanctuaries;
- (ii) the Cinematographs Ordinance, 1959, which regulates the construction of theatres and makes provision for the safety of persons using theatres;
- (iii) the Legal Tender (Adoption of United States Currency) Ordinance, 1959, by which the *de facto* currency of the Colony (United States currency) was made legal tender;
- (iv) the Motor Vehicles (Third-Party Risks) Ordinance, 1959, which provides for the compulsory insurance of motor vehicles against third-party risks.

1960

The most important enactments passed by the Legislature in 1960 were:

- (i) the Burial Grounds Ordinance, 1960, which provides for the licensing, establishment and control of burial grounds in the Colony;
- (ii) the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, which amends section 4 of the principal Act. The purpose of the amendment is to encourage the establishment of banking facilities in the Colony;
- (iii) the Land Surveyors Ordinance, 1960, which provides for the licensing of land surveyors;
- (iv) the Beach Protection Ordinance, 1960, which provides for the protection of beaches and the prohibition of the removal of sand from beaches except by permission of the Administrator.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the Colony by the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of statute law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the colonial territories and therefore extend to the Colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the Colony.

From 1st January 1950 the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and the Leeward Islands (now the Colonies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands). The Court is presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. The Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction has the power to hear and determine all matters that are heard and determined in England by the High Court of Justice.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed £50 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £100.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters. There is a right of appeal to the Federal Supreme Court from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance, and by leave, from any interlocutory order made in the court of any proceedings.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of £20 in contract and £10 in tort. The Colony is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61 of the Leeward Islands Act as adapted for use in the Virgin Islands by the Adaptation of Laws

Regulations, 1956). Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands and further rights of appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal may be made to the Federal Supreme Court. The Crown Attorney is also the Magistrate.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases heard by all courts are given at Appendix II, page 61.

POLICE

Although the defederation of the Leeward Islands on 1st July 1956 did not affect the Leeward Islands Police Force (which was created in 1872—a year after federation of the Leeward Islands in 1871), 31st December 1959 saw the dissolution of this Force and the creation on 1st January 1960 of two Forces designated the Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Police Force and the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Police Force.

With the reconstitution of the Force serving members were given the option to retire with pension and gratuity or with gratuity only. This Division lost one corporal and one constable.

The Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Force which is under the command of a Superintendent with headquarters in Antigua is, for the purpose of administration, divided into three Divisions, viz: Antigua with Barbuda and Redonda as "A" Division under the immediate command of the Superintendent, Montserrat as "B" Division under the immediate command of an assistant superintendent, and the British Virgin Islands as "C" Division under the immediate command of an inspector.

The strength of the force in the British Virgin Islands at the end of 1960 was one inspector, two corporals and four constables; this was an increase of one constable over 1958. There are police stations at Road Town and East End, Tortola, and on the airstrip at Beef Island.

Twenty-eight Local Constables assist the police when necessary and wear uniform on duty. Local Constables receive a small monthly retainer and are paid for periods of active duty.

In addition to normal police duties the police are responsible for road traffic in all its aspects, immigration, fire fighting and the maintenance of the airstrip on Beef Island.

There were no fires during the period under review but the police along with a small number of volunteers maintained a state of preparedness. A new fire engine was purchased in 1960 and was a considerable improvement on the former equipment.

Crime

There was no serious outbreak of crime. The following table gives details (see also Appendix II, page 61).

Total Crimes and Offences dealt with by the Police

	<i>True Reports</i>	<i>Persons taken to Court</i>	<i>Persons Convicted</i>
1959	187	178	147
1960	205	190	157

Total Convictions

<i>Crimes</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>
Wounding and Assaults	23	19
Larcenies	12	6
Animal theft	1	—
Malicious Damage	1	1
<i>Offences</i>		
Minor Offences and Contraventions	110	131

PRISONS

The penal administration in the Colony is governed by the Prison Ordinance, 1954 (No. 12 of 1954) and Regulations made thereunder (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 25 of 1956).

There is one prison with accommodation for a maximum of 36 prisoners. Under the United Kingdom Colonial Prisoners Act, 1869, arrangements have been made for the removal of prisoners from the Virgin Islands to the Colony of Antigua when necessary.

The Inspector of Police is also Keeper of the Prison and an assistant keeper is appointed from among the police personnel. There is no permanent matron or warder but the services of both are obtained when necessary by the temporary employment of suitable persons. A visiting committee of Justices of the Peace, among other functions, advises the keeper on the running of the prison.

During the period under review the number of prisoners received was as follows:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>
Convicted	13	4
Remanded	6	3

Work consisted of general labour inside the prison and, when required, outside cleaning at various Government departments. Prison discipline was good as was the health of prisoners.

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 30 days are now entitled to have one-third of their sentence remitted.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY is supplied to Road Town and its immediate environs on a 24-hour basis by three 60 kW. 3-phase 110 volts A.C. diesel generators. The number of consumers rose from 210 at the end of 1958 to 306 at the end of 1960. The current electricity rates per unit of 1 kWh. are as follows:

Lighting Rate.	15 cents per unit.
Domestic Rates.	15 cents per unit for the first 20 units. 9 cents per unit for the next 30 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 50.
Commercial Rates.	9 cents per unit for the first 400 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 400.

Consideration is being given to an extension of the service to other areas around Road Town and to East End/Long Look, the second largest populated area in the Colony.

ICE AND COLD STORAGE

The ice plant which was set up in 1958 commenced production in April 1959. Two thousand two hundred and forty pounds of ice can be produced daily and an ice store with a capacity of 504 cubic feet ensures an adequate supply of ice at all times. Ice is sold daily at the plant at the rate of \$1.40 a block of 56 lb. or \$1.12 a block in lots of 560 lb. or more. In addition three cold storage rooms with a total capacity of 980 cubic feet are available to the public for rent on a monthly basis.

WATER SUPPLIES

The public water supply of the Colony may be divided into the following systems:

(a) *The Road Town Water Supply.* The population of Road Town is served by (i) a pipe-borne water system with its source in the upper reaches of Long Bush Gut, (ii) numerous shallow wells, and (iii) rain water collected from the roofs of buildings and stored in concrete cisterns. The pipe-borne system was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and a further grant of \$2,800 was approved in December 1960 for implementing the second stage of the water supply by connecting a satisfactory shallow well to the existing water mains.

(b) *The Country and Out-islands Water Supply.* With the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare funds the Government has been able to complete a programme of improvement of numerous water points in the country districts and out-islands. The programme included the construction of cisterns, spring boxes, troughs and protective aprons around wells and the re-opening and sinking of wells in strategic locations. Notwithstanding the public supply of water, most householders depend mainly on the storage of rain water caught on roof tops for consumption and domestic purposes. Cistern loans, which are made available through a revolving fund and financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, continue to play a valuable part in augmenting the amount of water made available to householders throughout the Colony. Thirty-three loans (not exceeding \$500 each) and totalling \$11,430 were made available in the two-year period ending December 1960. The provision of adequate supplies of water for human needs and for livestock still remains a problem, especially in years of low rainfall such as 1959.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department carried out building construction and maintenance works totalling \$93,653 in 1959 and \$206,788 in 1960 and road construction and maintenance works totalling \$47,012 in 1959 and \$109,821 in 1960.

A new Public Works Department Office and a residence for the Superintendent of Medical Services were constructed by contractors in 1959-60.

The department now has a more adequate technical staff headed by a fully qualified civil engineer who assumed duty in May 1959. Much of the staff is, however, employed on a purely temporary basis from Colonial Development and Welfare grants made available from time to time.

The establishment of a new and up-to-date mechanical workshop was almost completed by the end of 1960.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

ROAD TOWN, the capital, is the only port of entry but customs stations at West End and Jost Van Dyke provide limited customs and immigration facilities for boats plying regularly between the British and American Virgin Islands. No steamship service exists between the Colony and other countries but daily passenger launch schedules are maintained with St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. A fast passenger service between Road Town and St. Thomas was provided in June 1959 by means of the hydrofoil *Flying Fish*. The service was, however, discontinued in March 1960. Regular sloop communications are maintained with St. Thomas and Puerto Rico and there is spasmodic contact with the islands of the Leeward Islands.

In 1959 there were 1,480 entries of sloops and launches which carried 3,954 tons of cargo and 15,471 passengers, 835 vessels cleared carrying 1,525 tons of cargo and 15,232 passengers. In 1960 entries of vessels amounted to 1,397 carrying 13,292 tons of cargo and 19,221 passengers; 1,403 vessels were cleared carrying 9,849 tons of cargo and 19,513 passengers.

The contract for the construction of a new jetty at Road Town, including the reclamation of a sizeable area of land and for the dredging of the approaches to the jetty, had been placed by the end of the year and construction was expected to commence about the middle of 1961.

Communication between the islands of the Colony and the coastal settlements not served by roads is by sloop or motor launch. The Government maintains a launch which makes scheduled visits for medical and administrative purposes to the main islands of the Colony and three settlements on the north coast of Tortola.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

The motorable road system of Tortola has expanded steadily over the past two years and many villages not previously served by vehicles now have motorable access to Road Town. The western settlement of the West End/Carrott Bay area, the ridge settlement of Belle Vue and the Hope have been opened up to four-wheel-drive vehicular traffic. Existing roads are being improved to a standard that will before long make them motorable whilst a more ambitious

improvement programme is planned for execution in 1961. Work continued on the surfacing of main roads, especially in the Road Town area.

In 1959 there were 134 registered motor vehicles and 277 bicycles. In 1960 there were 174 motor vehicles and 383 bicycles.

Most of the roads of the Valley, Virgin Gorda have been improved to vehicular standards and there is current provision for the improvement of roads in the North Sound, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada.

CIVIL AVIATION

The grass surfaced airfield at Beef Island, which is located close to the eastern extremity of Tortola and to which access is gained by a manually operated ferry capable of accommodating motor vehicles, is 1,800 feet long by 100 feet wide and can accommodate light, twin-engined aircraft carrying some six passengers. The scheduled air service by Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) plying between the Leeward Islands, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico ceased operation in April 1960. But the number of landings by chartered aircraft increased substantially in 1960. Following the improvement of the surface of the runway LIAT have indicated willingness to resume operations and another private concern has applied formally for registration of a company to operate a scheduled air service. In 1959 there were 107 landings on the airstrip at Beef Island and in 1960 there were 201.

The Director of Civil Aviation for the Windward and Leeward Islands continues to have jurisdiction in the Colony.

The nearest large airport is in St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands, 25 miles distant from Road Town, Tortola.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The internal radio-telephone system with voice stations in Road Town and West End, Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Anegada, Beef Island and the Valley, Virgin Gorda and operating through an automatic repeater station on Mt. Todman, Tortola, continued to present maintenance problems during 1959-60. The services of a fully qualified radio technician, made available to the Colony on a year's secondment from International Aeradio Ltd. and financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, have however resulted in marked improvement. There are current proposals to extend the network to include Cane Garden Bay on the north coast of Tortola and the North Sound, Virgin Gorda.

The external link with St. Thomas continues to provide a valuable service that can permit direct connection to other countries of the world.

Work has commenced on the establishment of a 20-line telephone system in Road Town designed principally to serve the needs of the Government. There is evidence, however, that a commercial system to serve private needs may soon develop.

POSTAL SERVICES

The postal administration continued to function as a separate department of the Government, with the Treasurer carrying out the duties of postmaster. The new General Post Office in Road Town and a sub-post office in West End were opened in January 1959. There are sub-post offices at East End (Tortola), Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Mails and telegrams are received and despatched daily, except Sundays, through the General Post Office. All mail, except surface mail for territories in the Eastern Caribbean, is routed through St. Thomas Post Office at Charlotte Amalie in the United States Virgin Islands which receives and despatches air mail daily.

The postal services continue to provide a potential source of Government revenue through the sale of postage stamps, but the continuing reduction in sales since 1957 from \$53,398 to \$13,861 in 1958 to \$12,558 in 1959 and finally to \$10,639 in 1960, despite the increase in the volume of out-going mail, suggests that the current issue could be replaced with financial advantage.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

THE Tortola Development and Trust Company published on 28th February 1959 the first weekly issue of the *Tortola Times* which appeared every Saturday thereafter until 26th September, when staff difficulties necessitated a temporary suspension. Publication was resumed in March 1960 and regular weekly editions have appeared since then.

BROADCASTING

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony.

FILMS

There is no local film production or distribution. A commercial cinema in Road Town shows up-to-date 16 mm. films three nights a week.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

A weekly news-sheet was published between 1st January and March 1960 when the *Tortola Times* resumed publication. The Government has since then made good use of the local press in the dissemination of information.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago in which the largest islands are the United States islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix contain over 40 British islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow, three to four-miles-wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from the United Kingdom. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass so that, although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands except Anegada rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different nowhere does it exceed 10 to 15 feet in altitude and it is remarkably level.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metaliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil, limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably among the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a pleasant sub-tropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87° F. and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67° F. Sea breezes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10° F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently, on an average about once in every 25 years.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes—mainly *croton balsamiferum*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of a most interesting and unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles nor in nearby

Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola.

Being of great scientific interest this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge Agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Of the population of 7,338, 6,253 live on Tortola. Some 1,500 people live in Road Town, the capital, and its environs and some 1,300 at East End/Long Look, the only other area in the Colony approaching the size and status of a township. The overall density of the Colony, 124.4 persons per square mile, means very little. Of the 1,085 people who do not live on Tortola all except about 75 live on Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke. The rest, i.e. the 75, live in very small communities on five other islands.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources, and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the Colony. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and other—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions for home consumption, the surplus being exported to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and this has led to a thriving livestock industry. Cattle thrive in the islands and a first-class beef breed, the Nellthrop, has been developed. The size of the islands and the absence of flat land contributed to the decline of estate agriculture and its replacement by small-holdings worked, with very few exceptions, by the owner-occupier. Being always near to the sea and often in need of ready cash, it is not unnatural that the small-holder is often a fisherman as well.

It is recognized that the tourist industry is so controlled by fluctuating external influences that it would clearly be unwise to rely on it as the sole means of development. The Colony is, however, conscious of its substantial tourist potential because of its charm and interest as an unspoilt area for sailing, boating, fishing, bathing, horse-riding and for people who wish for rest and relaxation in a natural setting.

The economic life of the Colony is therefore mainly centred on livestock-raising, with subsistence ground provision production, and on fishing. But there is a rapidly increasing tourist industry. The products both of livestock and fishing industries find a ready market in the Virgin Islands of the United States. There are very few manufacturing industries as such, all conducted on a comparatively small scale.

Copper occurs in exploitable quantities in Virgin Gorda but there is not sufficient to give rise to a major industry; the copper is accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenum. The economic future of the Colony depends on the best use being made of the land for agriculture, on the fullest possible exploitation of its fisheries resources and in the development of the Colony as a tourist resort.

The people of the British Virgin Islands are hard working farmers, fishermen and businessmen living and working under difficult circumstances. They lack many of the amenities regarded as commonplace elsewhere, particularly in communications and water supply. There are certain natural resources but, as in any other country, it will take capital investment and expert technical guidance to make the most of them.

COMMUNICATIONS

Capital is especially needed to help develop the Colony's communications which cannot be said to be adequate. The provision of more roads, including a scenic road on the top of the mountain ridge, and improved air and sea facilities would have far-reaching effects on the development of agriculture and tourism. At the moment inaccessibility is one of the Colony's major problems, and ranks with topographical, soil and water deficiencies in making difficult the establishment of a sound economic structure.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgines in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 Virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595 when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy."

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola, where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717, a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board." The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lb. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of two official and three nominated unofficial members was substituted. This form of Government was abrogated in 1902 when the Governor-in-Council became the sole legislative authority. A Legis-

lative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was again granted to the islands in 1950.

On 1st July 1956 the Leeward Islands Council was defederated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a Colony.

Following are some of the important dates in the Colony's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement of Tortola by Dutch Buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1672 Tortola annexed to British Crown.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate Colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution—Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1871 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature re-constituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands Colony and establishment of Colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December 1959 and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S. I, No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2, chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) separate Colonies.

In 1959 the Colony was administered by an Administrator under the Governor of the Leeward Islands. The post of Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished in January 1960 and the Administrator of the Virgin Islands became Her Majesty's representative responsible directly to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Administrator is advised by an Executive Council constituted by the Virgin Islands Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, 1959. It consists of the Administrator, two official members, one member nominated by the Administrator from among the nominated members of the Legislative Council and two elected members, elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. At the end of 1960 the Council was made up as follows:

<i>Official Members</i>	Mr. H. A. Besson (Crown Attorney) Mr. N. E. A. Harrigan (Administrative Secretary)
<i>Nominated Member</i>	Mr. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (Member for Trade and Production) Mr. H. L. Stoutt (Member for Works and Communications)

During the period under review Mr. O. M. Browne, Crown Attorney, Mr. G. A. Redhead, Acting Crown Attorney, and Mr. D. S. Mordecai, Treasurer, had been official members while holding public office in the Colony. Mr. L. F. Malone and Mr. I. G. Fonseca held office as Member for Trade and Production and Member for Works and Communications respectively until after the general elections in October 1960, when they were replaced by Mr. Penn and Mr. Stoutt.

The Legislative Council constituted by the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1954 (No. 7 of 1954) was constituted as follows at the end of 1960:

<i>President</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Mr. H. A. Besson (Crown Attorney) Mr. N. E. A. Harrigan (Administrative Secretary)
<i>Nominated Members</i>	Mr. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P. Mr. J. R. O'Neal, M.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr. I. Dawson (Member, Tortola North) Mr. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (1st Member, Tortola Central) Mr. I. G. Fonseca, J.P. (2nd Member, Tortola Central) Mr. L. F. Malone (Member, Tortola East) Mr. H. L. Stoutt (Member, Tortola West and Jost Van Dyke) Mr. T. H. Faulkner (Member, Virgin Gorda and Anegada)

The general elections in October 1960 resulted in only one change in the elected membership of Legislative Council. Mr. T. H. Faulkner was elected as Member for Virgin Gorda and Anegada in place of Mr. W. E. O'Neal.

The District Councils Ordinance 1952 (No. 7 of 1952) which provides for a system of local government has not yet been implemented. On the out-islands (Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke) the Administrator appoints a Government Agent from among the local people. The position carries no salary but the person selected for appointment is usually a Local Constable and/or Road Warden, and receives remuneration as such. He also receives 10 per cent. of all taxes collected for the Government.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

HANDBOOKS

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EGGLESTON, GEORGE T. *Virgin Islands*. Princeton, D. Van Nostrand, 1959.

HOLDRIDGE, DESMOND. *Escape to the Tropics*. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1937.

SCOTT, PETER & PHILLIPA. *Far Away Look II*, Cassell, 1960.

SMITH, GLANVILLE. *Many a Green Isle*. Bodley Head, 1942.

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NOVELS

LEVO, JOHN. *The Hurricane*. Hutchinson, 1930.

LEVO, JOHN. *Virgin Islanders*. Hutchinson, 1933.

WHITE, ROBB. *Our Virgin Island*. Gollancz, 1953.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette (obtainable from Government Printing Office, Antigua).

Water Supplies of the British Virgin Islands by P. H. A. Martin-Kaye (obtainable from Administrator's Office, B.V.I.).

APPENDIX I COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.59	Expenditure to 31.12.60	Remarks
D.1933A & B	East End Road	\$ 83,022.80	\$ 74,164.27	\$ 82,341.80	Completed
D.1941	Public Works Temporary Staff	18,200.00	16,545.44	16,545.44	Completed
D.13E(F)	Manufacture of Fishmeal	1,400.00	769.74	769.74	Completed
D.13D(AB)	Experiment with Fodder Conservation	840.00	432.23	432.23	Completed
D.201C(1)	Electricity Extension	602.00	494.39	494.39	Completed
D.2118B	Creation of a Piped Water Supply in Road Town	2,800.00	—	—	Completed
D.2567 & A	Training of Teachers at Erdiston College	3,060.40	3,060.40	3,060.40	Completed
D.2651(32)	Visit of Expert in Tourism	504.00	108.78	108.78	Completed
D.2651(37)	Agriculture and Forestry	554.40	537.22	537.22	Completed
D.2658(5)	Training in Agriculture	840.00	562.21	565.21	Completed
D.2658(131)	Training in Forestry	179.20	150.95	150.95	Completed
D.2658(212)	Training in Radiotelephony	310.80	297.50	297.50	Completed
D.2717(42)	Pilot Project Production of Green Vegetables	1,400.00	1,121.99	1,121.99	Completed
D.2759	Marine Light, Ginger Island	2,800.00	2,223.30	2,223.30	Completed
D.2760	Purchase of Agricultural Machinery	7,980.00	7,477.26	7,477.26	Completed
D.2799 & D.2788A	Grassland Management	14,736.40	12,662.44	13,004.44	Completed
D.2789	Major Bay School	12,880.00	6,001.22	6,006.24	Completed
D.2890/6	Vocational Training	70.00	62.24	62.24	Completed
D.2890(23)	Vocational Training	46.48	41.50	41.50	Completed
D.2965	Public Works Equipment and Workshop	14,000.00	16,001.78	16,001.78	Completed
D.2794 & A	Stock Farm	115,309.60	24,181.16	35,772.34	Completed
D.3035 & A & B	Beef Island Airstrip	46,200.80	38,299.83	38,304.85	Completed
D.3036	Public Works Temporary Staff	10,875.20	7,786.37	7,786.37	Completed
D.3095(3)	Assistance to Youth Organisation	—	153.75	153.75	Completed
D.3135	Sea Cows Bay/West End/Baughers Bay/Belle Vue Road	28,000.00	24,615.74	35,326.74	Completed
D.3134 & A	Hospital Extension	36,400.00	37,021.61	37,021.61	Completed
D.3279(21)	Caribbean Vocational Training	23.24	20.00	20.00	Completed
D.3279(30)	Caribbean Vocational Training	139.44	119.38	119.38	Completed

APPENDIX I—continued

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.59	Expenditure to 31.12.60	Remarks
D.3351	Angledozer	\$ 26,639.20	\$ 26,360.44	\$ 26,360.44	Completed
D.3497	Training Courses (Virgin Island)	3,360.00	2,250.10	2,529.68	
D.3563	Training of Teachers at Erdiston College	2,396.80	2,166.68	3,000.84	
D.3384	Public Works Temporary Staff	28,826.00	17,555.52	24,000.00	
D.3569	Country Water Supplies	14,000.00	9,259.78	20,736.54	
D.3573	Forestry Development	5,600.00	681.42	1,105.55	
D.3592	Town Planning	924.00	316.58	316.58	
D.3736(31)	Caribbean Vocational Training Scheme	333.20	—	329.85	
D.3736(40)	Caribbean Vocational Training Scheme	—	—	22.50	
D.3678	Construction of Barge-Ferry between Tortola and Beef Is.	3,080.00	—	—	
D.3736(7)	Vocational Training	114.80	101.80	—	
D.3757	Purchase of Market Site	5,600.00	5,112.00	5,496.82	
D.3773	Land Use Survey	3,099.60	640.82	3,580.43	
D.3806	Construction of Health Clinic, Sound, Virgin Gorda	8,400.00	25.00	27.91	
D.3831	Road Development Out Island	8,400.00	2,536.67	5,906.03	
D.3825	Cane Garden Bay Jetty	8,120.00	7,305.00	8,082.00	
D.3860	Purchase of Land, Playground & Health Clinic, Major Bay	4,760.00	2,900.20	4,799.77	
D.3906	Construction of Quarters for Additional Tutor, Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute	98.00	—	—	
D.3964	Meyers School	12,600.00	—	211.90	
D.3968	Aedes Aegypti Campaign	16,016.00	—	6,521.40	
D.4006	Training in Telegraphic Communication	252.00	79.50	243.30	
D.4037	Bridge, Frenchmans Cay	2,800.00	—	538.78	
D.4139	Training Courses	1,181.60	—	564.45	
D.4159	Secondment of Radio Technician	11,200.00	—	123.90	
D.4170	Plant, P.W.D.	24,721.20	—	25,519.74	
D.4275	Public Works Temporary Staff	28,000.00	—	13,874.66	
D.4356	Purchase of Redifon Radio-telephone	1,456.00	—	—	
D.4506	Road Town/Baughers Bay Road	48,199.20	—	—	
D.4602	Huntums Ghut/Great Mountain Road	14,000.00	—	—	
D.4603	Improvement of Wharf & Harbour Facilities at Road Town	71,719.20	—	—	

APPENDIX II

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES, 1959 AND 1960

Court	Civil Cases		Criminal Offences Charged		Accused Persons		Convictions		Acquittals		Charge Withdrawn		Case not Complete	
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
Supreme Court . . .	—	—	2	4	2	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	—
Summary Court . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magistrate's Court . . .	—	—	176	186	176	186	147	157	13	9	4	20	12	—

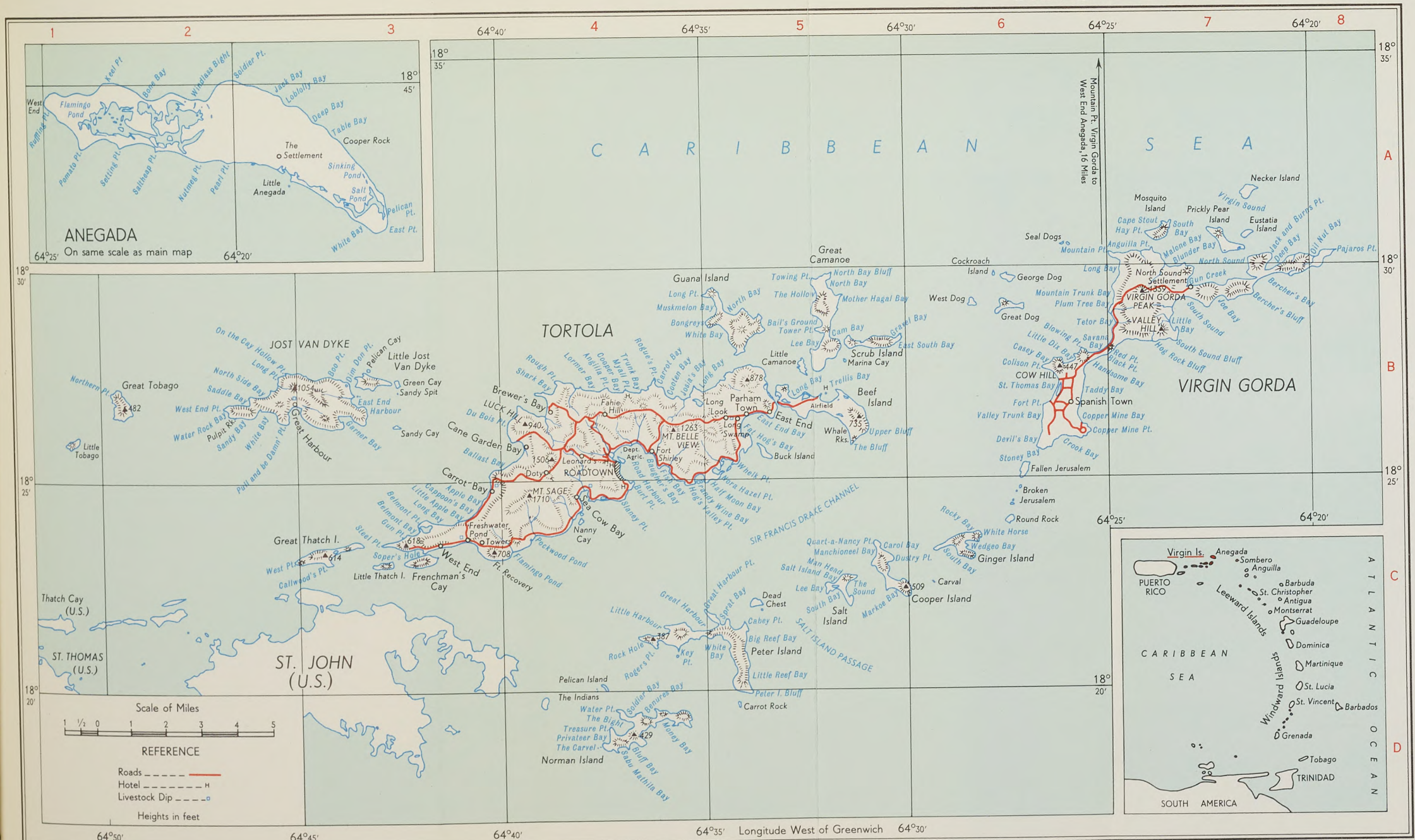
21

Juveniles—All Courts				Summary Punishments by all Courts			
Charged	Acquitted		Convicted	Imprisonment		Fines	
	1959	1960		1959	1960	1959	1960
13 8	—	—	13 8	11 5	98 109	38 43	—

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



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1964

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Map at end

NOTE: United States currency is used throughout this report except where otherwise stated.

PART I

General Review of 1961 and 1962

ADMINISTRATION

THE Colony continued to be administered by Captain G. J. Bryan, O.B.E.(1960)M.C. until early January 1962, when he left to act as Administrator St. Lucia to which office he has since been transferred. During the inter-regnum between Captain Bryan's departure and the arrival of Mr. M. S. Staveley, C.B.E. eight months later, Mr. W. St. P. M. Hancock (Financial Secretary and Treasurer), Mr. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) and Mr. A. Haley (Financial Secretary, St. Kitts) each had short periods of service as acting Administrator.

In 1961 Captain Bryan visited the Colonial Office for official discussions on matters including the 1962 estimates.

POLITICAL

There are no political parties in the Colony and all the elected members on the Legislative Council are returned as independent candidates. There is however a mutual understanding between two groups of the elected members which creates the semblance of Government and Opposition in the Legislative Council. Attempts were made during the latter half of 1962 to form a political party in the Eastern district of Tortola—the Fourth District—but at the end of the year it was still insufficiently strong to exert an influence in the district. Apart from this attempt there are no political parties in the Colony, nor even any expressed desire to form one.

INTER-VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

The relationship between the British and American groups of islands continued on friendly and satisfactory basis. Only one meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference was, however, held in 1962 owing to difficulties, chiefly on the American side, in adhering to quarterly meetings. The main subject raised at this meeting, by the American side, related to the employment of British Virgin Islanders in the United States Virgin Islands, especially St. Thomas. The Federal and Insular Governments are anxious to regulate the conditions of such employment with a view, on the one hand, to protecting British

Virgin Islands workers from exploitation and on the other hand to removing possible causes of difficulty, for example with local labour. It was agreed at the meeting to set up a joint committee to go into this matter and report back to the next meeting of the Conference. A second committee was established to consider medical problems, involving that presented by pregnant women who travel to St. Thomas in the last stages of pregnancy to have their babies born there. This was the first meeting of the Conference at which Mr. M. S. Staveley participated. Also present were the Member for Trade and Production (Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E.), the Acting Secretary to Government (Mr. R. T. O'Neal) and the Superintendent of Agriculture (Mr. J. L. M. Winter, M.B.E.).

THE ECONOMY

The economy of the Colony is closely affected by events in the adjacent United States Virgin Islands and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The continued rapid economic expansion in these territories has in many ways made its impression on the economy of the British Virgin Islands particularly in drawing away labour and forcing up local wage rates. Although the basic economic structure has undergone no fundamental change (the livestock industry, despite a tendency to decline, still being the backbone of the economy) there is a growing consciousness of the substantial tourist potential which the Colony possesses, and every effort is being made to exploit it. The contribution to the economy made by the tourist industry is already tending to increase. Government policy has therefore been to devote the bulk of substantial grants-in-aid and generous grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to projects which will assist the basic agricultural economy of the islands, improve communications, increase trade and promote tourism.

The main source of employment for British Virgin Islanders continued to be St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands, the economy of which is dependent on the employment of workers from elsewhere. The proximity of the British Virgin Islands and the traditional ties between the two groups of islands give British Virgin Islanders a specially favoured position with regard to employment. It has been estimated that more than 10% of the total population of the British Virgin Islands is employed in St. Thomas at any one time. The high level of wages paid in St. Thomas (probably the highest in the Eastern Caribbean) is geared to a well developed tourist industry undergoing boom conditions. The serious drain on the effective manpower of the British Virgin Islands and the necessity

of fixing wages in the British Virgin Islands in competition with wages in St. Thomas are factors which tend to militate against development in the British Virgin Islands, especially the development of public services which is financed from sterling sources but undertaken in what is in fact a hard currency area.

During the period under review 32 licences were granted under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act to 20 persons to acquire property totalling 733 acres subject to development involving expenditure of \$432,000 within stipulated periods. The amount of expenditure and the period varies according to the size of the property acquired and the Government policy which was brought into effect during 1960 is as follows:-

<i>"Area of land</i>	<i>Development Commitment</i>	<i>Development Period</i>
up to 3 acres	\$2,000 an acre subject to a minimum of \$2,000	3 years
from 3-10 acres	\$6,000 for the first 3 acres and \$1,000 an acre thereafter	5 years
over 10 acres	To be determined by mutual agreement between the licensee and the Government	

Public Road reservation clause: Where a public road or track traverses the property:

- (a) reservation of 24 feet width for future road development in accordance with section 21 of the Road Ordinance (No. 12 of 1955) as amended by the Road (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1959).
- (b) if the road borders the seashore restriction on construction of permanent buildings between the road and the sea.

Beach protection clause: Where the land is adjacent to a beach, restriction on the erection of fences on the beach.

Other conditions: Such other conditions as may be mutually agreed upon between the licensee and the Government with a view to the orderly development of the land, the avoidance of undesirable speculation, the interests of the people of the British Virgin Islands or the economic security of the Colony."

The most significant feature in the field of tourism was the execution of a lease between the Crown and Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller on the 17th February 1961, for 364 acres of Crown land on Virgin Gorda. Following negotiations lasting over a period of some two years, on the 1st May 1962, the British contracting firm of Taylor Woodrow (Overseas) Ltd. began work on the tourist resort, under the supervision of an American firm of consulting engineers, Tippetts-Abbetts-MacCarthy-Stratton. It is expected that the resort will be open to guests on the 1st January 1964. By the end of 1962 some \$416,663 had been paid out on wages to local employees. Owing to the inability of the contractors to recruit sufficient labour within the

Colony, both skilled and unskilled, permission was given to import labour from other British West Indian Islands and from the United Kingdom.

Two further leases were executed for Crown lands during 1961—one for the three islands of Eustatia, Prickly Pear and Little Saba totalling over 200 acres, and one for 85 acres of Crown land at Little Jost Van Dyke. The lease for the three islands stipulated that \$20,000 was to be spent during the first year, \$30,000 for the second year and \$300,000 for the next three years. At the end of 1962, \$20,000 had been spent on the construction of a warehouse, store-room and office space and clearing of land. No development had taken place on Little Jost Van Dyke.

During 1961 Dr. Carleen O'Loughlin visited the Colony to carry out a survey of the economic potential, fiscal structure and capital requirements of the Colony. Her report in the main stressed the lack of communications, especially air communication which she considered to be the first essential for economic growth, and made the point that the development of middle income tourism was more desirable for the Colony than high income tourism. She was also of the opinion that agriculture was likely to yield lesser returns than tourism and that emphasis in development should accordingly be directed towards this latter field, with the objective of eliminating grant-aid within 10 to 15 years. The Report was referred to a local Development Advisory Committee, which was set up in November 1962 and which was still deliberating at the end of the year.

The three marine slipways in operation in the Colony continue to do a flourishing business.

The Chamber of Commerce continued to function during the period under review, but was not marked by great activity. A significant achievement for the economic development of the Colony took place on the 17th May 1961, when the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas, an affiliate of the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company, opened its doors for business in Road Town. From accounts received the business has since progressed very satisfactorily, and the bank is undoubtedly performing a most valuable service.

The cruise ship *Meteor* continued to make calls at Road Town and Peter Island.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The most noteworthy achievement in primary education was the completion during the early part of 1961 of the reorganization of primary schools into infant (5-7 years), primary (7-11 years) and

post-primary (11-15 years) departments. The post-primary curriculum provides for a three year course beyond the primary stage and is intended to meet the needs of the age group 11 plus to 15 and to give secondary training (in its modern connotation) to enable them to play their full parts as citizens of the Virgin Islands. A community branch of the Education Department was set up in 1962.

Four trained teachers resumed duty after attending training courses abroad and three qualified teachers entered the Teachers' Training College in Antigua.

Dr. Elsa Walters, Senior Lecturer in the Education Department of the University of the West Indies, visited for three weeks in July 1962 and undertook an inspection of all the schools of the Colony.

The staffing position of the hospital has been improved as a result of training received by nurses at the University College Hospital, Jamaica. It continued to be difficult to fill the district nursing posts and three such appointments were still vacant at the end of 1962.

The general health of the Colony was good although environmental sanitation and refuse disposal in Road Town and elsewhere remains a problem. The *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito eradication campaign continued in operation and at the end of 1962 positivity was reduced to 3 per cent.

Mr. G. Foggon, Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Colony for three days in October, 1961.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The Civil Service has suffered from too rapid a turnover of staff and this tends to weaken the small service. Despite this, however, the Civil Service as a whole gave of their best. It is hoped that increased training of personnel can be undertaken shortly as part of any new development plan.

Mr. G. E. Mills, Senior Lecturer in Public Administration at the University of the West Indies, visited the Colony in 1962 in order to make a survey of training requirements. His report was still awaited at the end of the year. Meanwhile departmental proposals were formulated in connection with development planning, for training of local personnel for the jobs on which they are engaged, for replacements and also for future needs.

The report of the Salaries Commissioner referred to in the 1959-1960 report was considered and the recommendations in the main accepted. At the end of 1962 there remained few anomalies to be settled, and these were being dealt with by the Whitley Council. The fact that, with few exceptions, the top posts in the Civil Service are held by non-Virgin Islanders gives rise to concern, and to a policy

of training as many local officers as possible with a view to fitting them to hold these positions, particularly as some difficulty has been experienced in recruiting staff from the other West Indian Islands. The coming into operation on 1st April 1961 of the Overseas Service Aid Scheme providing enhanced terms for staff recruited from the United Kingdom eased the difficulties in the recruitment of professional staff from the United Kingdom, although the post of Superintendent of Public Works remain unfilled at the end of 1962, at which time there were four officers recruited under the scheme serving in the Colony.

Mr. N. E. A. Harrigan, Secretary to Government, was selected for a one year course at the London School of Economics and Political Science commencing in September 1962.

GENERAL

During 1961 and 1962 the Colony was spared the ravages of hurricane or floods. Restoration of the houses and fishing boats destroyed in Anegada by hurricane "Donna" was completed. Mr. R. Tresidder of the Road Research Laboratory, England, visited the Colony for a week in December 1961, but his report had not been received by the end of the year.

In an effort to stimulate the development of tourism a Tourist Advisory Board was set up administratively in 1961, under the chairmanship of the Member for Trade and Production. During the period under review the Colony became a Member of the Caribbean Tourist Association and an associate Member of the American Society of Travel Agents. These two organisations have assisted in advertising the islands in the U.S.A. The General Manager of the Caribbean Tourist Association visited the Colony in October 1962, and the Executive Committee of the South Eastern Chapter of the American Society of Travel Agents held its annual meeting at the end of the year at one of the local hotels.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments and awards:

1961 Birthday Honours:

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Miss Harriette Lydia Penn, Chief Accountant in the Public Service.

The British Empire Medal: Miss Isabella Morris.

1962 Birthday Honours:

The British Empire Medal: Monroe Leslie Donovan, Collector of Taxes in the Public Service.

VISITORS

The Governor General of the Federation of The West Indies, accompanied by Lady Hailes, visited the British Virgin Islands in March, 1961. On arrival at the main jetty in Road Town, Lord and Lady Hailes were met by the Administrator and Mrs. Bryan and presented to important local personages. Lord Hailes inspected a Scouts guard of honour and Lady Hailes a guard of honour of Girl Guides and Junior Red Cross. A youth rally was held on the grounds of the Government secondary and primary schools in Road Town, which included an historical pageant "Ye Islands of Enchantment" presented by the children of the Road Town Secondary and Primary Schools. Lord and Lady Hailes visited Government Departments and some of the schools and institutions in the Colony.

Towards the end of the year 1962 the Colony had two visits from officials of the Colonial Office. Mr. Wootton of the Finance Department and Mr. E. G. Donohoe of the West Indian Department. They met members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and other residents and saw for themselves some of the problems confronting the Colony.

In 1961 and 1962 the following ships visited the Colony:

- 1961 H.M.S. *Wizard* (Captain Ashmore, R.N.)
1st to 16th February.
- H.M.S. *Venus* (Captain Ashmore, R.N.)
1st to 2nd March.
- 1962 H.M.S. *Troubridge* (Commander T. A. Q. Griffiths, R.N.)
9th to 12th February.
- H.M.S. *Urchin* (Captain T. T. Lewin, M.V.O., D.S.C., R.N.) 3rd to 5th March.
- H.M.S. *Wizard* (Commander D. J. Farquharson, R.N.)
3rd to 5th March.
- H.M.S. *Vigilant* (Lt.-Commander J. D. B. McCarthy, R.N.) 3rd to 5th March.
- H.M.S. *Roebuck* (Lt.-Commander S. A. C. Cassels, R.N.) 3rd to 5th March.
- R.F.A. *Wave Prince* (Mosten G. Robson)
3rd to 5th March.
- H.M.S. *Troubridge* (Commander R. C. Mayne)
4th to 7th May
- H.M.S. *Whirlwind* (Commander J. K. Lessey, D.S.C., R.N.) 5th to 8th October.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE demographic census taken on the 7th April 1960 revealed that the total population of the Colony was 7,340, distributed as follows:

Tortola	.	.	.	.	.	6,262
Virgin Gorda	.	.	.	.	.	562
Aneгада	.	.	.	.	.	269
Jost Van Dyke	.	.	.	.	.	173
Other Islands	.	.	.	.	.	74
TOTAL						<hr/> 7,340 <hr/>

The constant movement of British Virgin Islanders between the two groups of Virgin Islands continued. The movement increased so much during the period under review that at the end of 1962 there were six passenger launches plying between the islands in addition to passengers arriving and departing by air.

The report of the census revealed that 7,340 people were present on census night and 581 absent. The true population was therefore 7,921. At the end of 1962 there were approximately 90 white persons of European or American origin resident in the Colony. Other than these the population is of African extraction.

Vital statistics are given in Chapter 7.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE Colony has been described in previous reports as a community composed basically of small scale farmers, fishermen and sailors, but in recent years a high proportion of the younger people have left the land and sea for more lucrative employment in the tourist industry in the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands, especially St. Thomas and St. John. The older men are still largely occupied in agricultural pursuits, principally livestock raising and the cultivation of ground provisions and vegetables. The sloops and schooners engaged in the inter-island trade between Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands continue to provide employment for a limited

number of men. The tendency is however for the traditional self-employment common to the islands for generations to give way increasingly to employment for wages.

The principal occupations in order of importance are:

- (a) the public service—the civil service and the education service,
- (b) building—constructional, road making and repair work,
- (c) agricultural pursuits,
- (d) commerce—shops, stores and haulage of cargo,
- (e) fishing,
- (f) passenger transport services—land and sea,
- (g) repair and maintenance services—workshops and shipyards,
- (h) personal services—servants,
- (i) industry—hotel, rum manufacture and blockmaking, and
- (j) cottage industry—hat and basket making.

Government continued to be the principal employer of labour. At the end of 1962 there were 212 persons employed in the civil and educational services of the Colony and a number of other persons were employed as skilled and unskilled labourers in various public works projects, including road construction and maintenance.

Skilled labour is difficult to obtain owing to the demand in the United States Virgin Islands and the high rate of wages there as compared with the rates in the Colony (U.S. \$12.00 to \$18.00 a day in the United States Virgin Islands as against U.S. \$5.50 to \$9.00 a day in the British Virgin Islands).

Under a commitment to expend some \$1½ million on the development of a large scale tourist resort in Virgin Gorda, Mr. Laurance Rockefeller had expended some \$1,275,295 during 1962 of which \$416,663 represented wages. It is expected that this project will have provided employment for some 300 people during the construction period which is due to end early in 1964.

During 1961, nine men were recruited for employment in the sugar industry in St. Croix, and four were recruited in 1962. Owing to the higher rate of pay in the tourist industry and on constructional work in St. Thomas, the number of workers recruited for St. Croix has steadily declined in spite of the fact that they are given a contract and are assured of minimum wages of not less than \$27.00 a week, plus meals and lodging. Domestic workers, waiters, labourers and artisans from the British Virgin Islands are allowed to enter the United States Virgin Islands to work under bond for a period of up to one year. Wages in most instances are not less favourable than those paid to the residents of the United States Virgin Islands. At the end of 1962 it was estimated that more than 12 per cent of the total population of the Colony was employed on contract in the United States Virgin Islands.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Except for civil servants, store clerks and domestic servants, workers are employed on a daily wage system. The normal working day is eight hours (except for civil servants), and workers are usually paid overtime at the rate of time and a half on weekdays and public holidays, and double time on Sundays. Wage rates are influenced by those paid in the United States Virgin Islands, but are generally still a good deal lower.

Class of Worker	1961		1962	
	Daily wages (8 hours)		Daily wages (8 hours)	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	\$	\$	\$	\$
MANUAL				
General unskilled . . .	2.75	3.50	2.75	4.50
Semi-skilled	3.00	3.50	3.00	3.50
Skilled (including operators and drivers)	4.00	5.50	4.00	8.00
Bulldozer operators . .		10.00		10.00
SUPERVISORY				
Foreman, semi-skilled . .	4.00	5.00	4.00	5.00
Foreman, skilled	8.00	10.00	8.00	10.00
	Monthly wages		Monthly wages	
PERSONAL SERVICES				
Domestic servants, waiters	35.00	40.00	45.00	50.00
Shop clerks	50.00	60.00	60.00	75.00

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Provision is made under the Virgin Islands Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950) for the establishment of a Labour Department and the appointment of a Labour Commissioner. This appointment was first made on 16th February 1961. There are also laws relating to the establishment of minimum wages, the employment of women and children, the prohibition of the employment of young children and the settlement of trade disputes. There were only two labour disputes during the period and those were settled by the Labour Commissioner.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The only labour organisations in the Colony are the Civil Service Association and the Teachers Association. There is no form of collective bargaining. The Government daily wage rates are the basic rates in the Colony and private enterprise normally pays much higher rates. Negotiations on wages, whether with Government or private enterprises, are conducted on an individual *ad hoc* basis.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1937 as amended was repealed and replaced by a new Ordinance in 1962. During 1961 and 1962 there were eleven claims for compensation from Government daily paid employees and a total of \$188.00 was paid out in compensation. The new legislation made it compulsory for any person employing more than three persons in certain occupations to carry insurance for his workmen.

The Tortola Shipyard Ltd., one of the principal employers of labour, gives permanent employees two weeks' paid leave a year and assumes responsibility for medical attention to employees injured on the job.

Inspection is carried out by the Labour Commissioner. During 1961 and 1962 there were only seven accidents, one of which was serious but none fatal.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Land Survey Team of 1960 emphasised strongly the need for a programme of industrial training, but there are as yet no official schemes in operation for vocational training or apprenticeship within the Colony. Consideration is, however, being given to this pressing need in connection with future development planning. Private contractors take on boys who have left the post-primary school as apprentices to masons, carpenters and plumbers, at a daily rate of from \$2.75 to \$3.00. They usually serve for three or four years, their daily rates increasing according to output until eventually they become journeymen. Even this unorganised system suffers from emigration to the United States Virgin Islands where the boys are able to earn substantially better wages without possessing the necessary skills. The Tortola Shipyard Ltd. also takes on boys as apprentices in its machine shop and boatyard. Provision has been made for the Public Works Department to employ trainees during 1963.

During the period under review, two boys received courses under the I.C.A. programme. One was trained in electricity and is now employed at Virgin Gorda (Mr. Rockefeller's tourist resort); the other received a short course in library routine and technique and is working at the Public Library.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE financial year is the calendar year. Since 1958 Government accounts have been kept in the currency of the United States of America. Postage stamps previously denoted in British Caribbean currency (Eastern Group) were shown for the first time in United States currency when overprint values were put on sale on 10th December 1962.

Since 1951 Government revenue collected locally has not been sufficient to meet the increasing needs of the Colony for improved social services and the development of public works. The shortfall between revenue collected locally and approved expenditure is met by a block grant of funds from the United Kingdom. In the past five years local revenues have shown a consistent upward trend, averaging some 36 per cent per annum in 1961 and 1962, but expenditure has also risen steeply, owing to demands for improved and additional services coupled with increased costs of materials and services, which are more closely related to the economy of the United States than that of the United Kingdom.

Details of local revenue and grants in aid over the past five years are as follows:

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962 (revised Estimates)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Revenue	123,000	154,000	186,000	269,000	344,000
Approved Grant-in-aid	286,000	294,000	448,000	595,000	581,000
TOTAL	\$409,000	\$448,000	\$634,000	\$864,000	\$925,000

The proportion of grant in aid assistance from the United Kingdom to estimated local expenditure was 71 per cent in 1961 and 64.4 per cent in 1962.

Increases in local revenue in 1961 and 1962 resulted principally from customs duties, income tax and house taxes.

In addition to the grants in aid of administration, funds are made available from the United Kingdom for approved development projects in the form of free grants under the Colonial Development

and Welfare Act. An amount of \$280,000 was allocated to the Colony in 1959, further augmented by a supplementary allocation of \$196,000 in 1961, which, together with the unspent balance from previous allocations, gave an overall amount of \$494,077 for expenditure within the five year period ending 31st March 1964.

Development schemes approved in 1961 and 1962 amounted to \$42,304. Total expenditure and other commitments against the Colony's allocation of C.D. & W. funds at the end of 1962 were \$285,122, leaving an uncommitted balance for new schemes of \$208,955. Expenditure in 1961 and 1962 on these and other schemes is set out in the table on page 59 and 60.

The local loan for the electricity, cold storage and ice plant was fully subscribed by the end of 1961, the total authorised debt being \$103,373.

Details of revenue and expenditure for the two years under review are as follows:

REVENUE

	1961 (actual) \$	1962 (revised Estimate) \$
<i>From local sources</i>		
Import duties	103,454	137,739
Export duties	3,048	2,900
Port, harbour and wharf dues	1,162	1,750
Income tax	13,484	18,000
Passenger tax	5,603	7,500
Other taxes, licences and duties	20,553	33,341
Fees of Court and payments for specific services	21,721	28,225
Self-balancing projects	58,011	58,436
Post Office	15,391	30,976
Other revenue	26,445	24,750
	<u>268,872</u>	<u>343,617</u>
<i>From United Kingdom</i>		
(i) Grant-in-aid	595,000	580,693
Total	<u>863,872</u>	<u>924,310</u>
(ii) Development and Welfare	149,556	148,424
(iii) Overseas Service Aid Scheme	2,314	7,550
TOTAL	<u>\$1,015,742</u>	<u>\$1,080,284</u>

EXPENDITURE

	1961 (actual) \$	1962 (revised Estimate) \$
Debt charges	6,032	7,237
Pensions	9,905	17,411
Administration	76,684	83,790
Legislature	15,445	12,931
Treasury and Customs	39,263	41,338
Agriculture	48,544	53,500
Audit	2,838	4,954
Education	137,919	140,699
Judicial and Legal	15,264	24,193
Medical and Health	78,883	85,693
Miscellaneous	42,086	24,621
Police and Prison	24,455	29,297
Post Office	7,341	9,779
Public Works (recurrent)	146,142	137,910
Public Works (2) electricity and ice plant	31,264	77,953
Public Works (extraordinary)	111,342	145,000
Total Local Expenditure	793,407	896,306
C. D. & W. Schemes	171,419	237,272
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	1,694	12,776
TOTAL	\$917,727	\$1,146,354
Public Debts	\$104,417	

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Colony is in perhaps a unique currency position. It has no currency of its own but the currencies of Jamaica, the Territories of the British Caribbean (Eastern Group) and of the United States of America are legal tender. The currency of the United States of America which had been the *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades became legal tender in 1959. The only currency now used in practice is that of the United States although the Colony is part of the sterling area. Conversion within the Colony from one currency to the other is unrestricted, but control is exercised over the amount of sterling area currencies which may be transferred to the Colony for living purposes, investment or for conversion into United States dollars. Except where otherwise indicated all figures in this Report are quoted in U.S. dollars.

In May 1961 commercial banking facilities were established in the Colony for the first time when the Virgin Islands National Bank of

St. Thomas, which is owned and controlled by the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., established a branch in Road Town. In order to secure the establishment of the branch, the Government removed, as an incentive, certain of the restrictions in the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act applying to aliens and alien banks in connection with the acquisition of land by purchase or mortgage, so that where any land was mortgaged to a bank, in the event of foreclosure or sale, the bank would be free to deal with or dispose of such land without restriction whether the purchaser was an alien or not, and the purchaser of such land would likewise be free to sell to a British subject or an alien without restriction. The local branch engages in both short-term and long-term lending, the latter secured by mortgages for periods up to ten years. The local branch also operates a Savings Department.

The Government Savings Bank, existing primarily to encourage savings, was, prior to 1961, the only bank operating in the Colony. The Savings Bank continued its services as heretofore but the number of depositors and the total deposits declined steeply during 1961 and 1962 as a result of transfers of savings to the Savings Department of the local branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas. The rate of interest on deposits is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the maximum deposit which an individual may make is \$4,200. Non-resident accounts are not normally permitted.

The accounts of the Savings Bank are kept in United States dollars and depositors are entitled to receive United States currency on withdrawal of their deposits. The following statement indicates the number of depositors and the total deposits held from the 31st December 1958 to the 31st December 1962:

	<i>Number of Depositors</i>	<i>Amount of Deposits \$</i>
1958 . .	711	112,214
1959 . .	800	142,162
1960 . .	950	182,560
1961 . .	879	132,804
1962 . .	778	78,044

Savings Bank funds are kept in the Road Town branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas or are invested by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations.

The Government operates a current account with both the head office and the local branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas and with the Royal Bank of Canada in Puerto Rico, and permits sterling transfers to the Colony through these facilities.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE commerce of the Colony depends largely on livestock and fish and to a lesser extent on fruit and vegetables. Considerable quantities of sand and gravel used for construction in St. Thomas and St. John were also exported during the period under review.

Only a very small part of the Colony's requirements for foodstuffs is met by local production, and the bulk of the needs are met by imports from other countries, mainly the United States of America and Puerto Rico. The possibility of trade with the British West Indian Islands such as Montserrat is being explored but the shortage of shipping communication is a formidable obstacle.

Despite the existence of a preferential rate of duty for imports from the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries, the Colony's trade is carried on principally with the United States of America, United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The United States Virgin Islands continued to be the principal destination of exports of local produce.

The direction of trade was as follows:

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports</i>				<i>Exports</i>			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>
U.S.A., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands . . .	519	651	970	1488	117	146	139	121
United Kingdom . . .	80	115	212	221	—	—	—	—
Leeward Islands . . .	33	37	37	11	—	—	—	—
Other Foreign Countries .	29	32	68	150	25	36	4	15
Other Commonwealth Countries	26	22	38	109	—	—	—	—
TOTAL . . .	687	857	1,325	1,979	142	182	143	136

It will be seen that the Colony continued to have an adverse trade balance but this was offset by remittances from British Virgin Islanders employed in the Virgin Islands of the United States, from earnings derived from coast-wise trading sloops plying between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, from tourist expenditure by foreign residents and from United Kingdom funds, including grant-in-aid of administration and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

Imports and exports in the years 1959—1962 were as follows:

IMPORTS

Commodities	Import by value				Import by Quantity			
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1959	1960	1961	1962
Timber	\$ 35,590	\$ 45,956	\$ 39,524	\$ 90,007	252,767 ft.	308,364 ft.	279,675 ft.	550,502 ft.
Machinery (all kinds)	9,734	44,557	98,865	195,901	920,702 lb.	764,302 lb.	760,921 lb.	760,872 lb.
Flour	50,164	39,706	41,925	82,149	121,106 gal.	170,555 gal.	170,912 gal.	456,940 gal.
Oils (uneditible)	29,851	35,741	38,633	39,483	541,668 lb.	744,974 lb.	572,232 lb.	725,843 lb.
Sugar	35,376	33,261	35,421	66,517	18,288 gal.	20,350 gal.	30,405 gal.	41,822 gal.
Beer, Ale, Stout, Porter	27,614	31,812	46,929	86,453	—	—	—	—
Hardware	22,035	32,785	50,509	40,232	3,079,440 lb.	2,668,754 lb.	4,434,826 lb.	7,502,140 lb.
Apparel	18,195	29,538	29,628	67,694	21 no.	20 no.	41 no.	32 no.
Cement	27,724	26,246	40,232	63,757	5,482 gal.	5,796 gal.	6,452 gal.	7,486 gal.
Electric Apparatus	19,540	26,003	31,543	50,155	37,765 lb.	46,264 lb.	58,690 lb.	116,442 lb.
Motor Cars	23,568	25,383	65,159	37,408	—	—	—	—
Spirits (all kinds)	20,158	21,443	30,324	51,277	—	—	—	—
Meats (all kinds)	18,025	21,585	29,682	27,561	—	—	—	—
Milk (tinned)	15,113	21,136	27,302	28,288	7,028 pr.	6,705 pr.	7,390 pr.	10,966 pr.
Haberdashery	10,844	15,117	13,407	26,603	12,186 gal.	24,237 gal.	38,461 gal.	31,513 gal.
Boots and Shoes	10,694	14,491	16,862	17,936	—	—	—	—
Aerated Waters	5,368	10,619	16,921	958,642	—	—	—	—
Other	307,980	381,215	698,090	—	—	—	—	—
Total Value of all Imports	\$687,573	\$856,595	\$1,325,084	\$1,980,780				

EXPORTS

Commodities	Export by Value				Export by Quantity			
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1959	1960	1961	1962
Livestock	\$ 102,230	\$ 126,965	\$ 103,438	\$ 90,860	2,587 no.	3,080 no.	2,747 no.	2,015 no.
Fruit (fresh)	6,975	14,244	8,340	9,699	49,119 lb.	72,225 lb.	61,430 lb.	63,585 lb.
Fish (fresh)	8,113	13,377	13,227	8,016	2,853 gal.	1,745 gal.	993 gal.	507 gal.
Vegetables (all kinds)	3,702	9,236	4,171	1,551	1,260 ton	1,496 ton	816 ton	290 ton
Local Rum	7,274	6,164	2,985	1,491	1,334 barrel	1,496 barrel	1,334 barrel	1,107 barrel
Gravel and Sand	—	3,727	3,543	3,057	775 no.	—	—	—
Charcoal	3,922	2,975	4,016	6,026	—	—	—	—
Cement Blocks	—	1,342	124	—	—	—	—	—
Other	9,946	4,368	2,831	—	—	—	—	—
Total Value of all Exports	\$142,162	\$182,398	\$142,675	\$135,657				

Chapter 6: Production

Land Utilisation and Tenure

The total area of the Colony as calculated by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys in 1958 is 37,608 acres. Of this acreage Tortola, the largest island, contains 13,499 acres, Anegada 9,542 acres, Virgin Gorda 5,308 acres and Jost Van Dyke 2,084 acres. The whole of Anegada, because of its hard coral formation, is unsuitable for any form of large-scale agricultural development, although the inhabitants plant fast-growing food crops during the rainy season. Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke are the main agricultural islands. Several small islands, though not cultivated, are used for grazing small stock.

An agricultural census was carried out during 1961 under the provisions of the Agricultural Census Order 1961. The results of this census have not yet been received.

Types of Tenure

The prevailing type of land tenure is freehold, acquired by outright purchase, inheritance under will, or, on intestacy, by inheritance in equal shares by all the children subject only to the interest of a surviving spouse. Restrictions are placed on the alienation of land under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act. There are few land titles in the Colony which are secure, other than where land has been acquired by the first purchaser from the Crown. Interminable property disputes arising from this chaotic state have become a characteristic feature of Virgin Islands life. The principal causes of disputes are uncertainty over devolution of title, or rights under tenancy in common, and uncertainty over boundaries. These disputes tend to cause shifting cultivation and other poor agricultural practices and preclude many farmers from benefiting from loans from the Agricultural Credit fund. Consideration has been given to the measures necessary to provide a solution to these problems, including legislative provision for clarification of titles by a land tribunal, coupled with a cadastral survey and a proper system of land titles registration, but the high cost of such a survey and land tribunal is not within the reach of a Colony with very little finance available for development projects.

In 1960 the Land Surveyors Ordinance (No. 13 of 1960) was passed providing for the licensing of surveyors to practice in the Colony. At the end of 1962 there were seven licensed Land Surveyors of which only two were resident in the Colony.

Land Ownership

Land is owned either privately or by the Crown. Owners of private land may be indigenous Virgin Islanders, non-indigenous British subjects or aliens. At the end of 1960 it was estimated that the Crown owned 15,121 acres, indigenous Virgin Islanders 17,982 acres, non-indigenous British subjects 1,717 acres, and aliens 2,788 acres.

As a result of land transactions during 1961 and 1962 the position at the end of 1962 was as follows:

Crown lands	15,121 acres
Indigenous Virgin Islanders	17,925 „
Non-Indigenous British subjects	1,717 „
Aliens	2,845 „

During 1961, 14 licences and in 1962, 18 licences were issued to aliens under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act to hold as owner, lessee or co-tenant along with other aliens, 20 of which were for the purpose of holding a total of 733 acres of land in the Colony with a development commitment of \$432,000. Licences are granted on condition that some form of development, usually building construction, takes place within a stipulated period.

Crown land utilization is as follows:

- 80 acres used as the Agricultural Station and Government paddocks, Road Town.
- 117 acres selected for designation as National Parks.
- 261 acres as a stock holding ground at Paraquita Bay.
- 4 acres as dipping vat sites.
- 256 acres leased to non-indigenous British subjects.
- 739 acres leased to aliens.
- 8 acres allotted for housing development.
- 402 acres rented to peasant farmers.

The rest remains idle or is used rent free by local residents. The bulk of Crown land is on Anegada, Virgin Gorda and some of the smaller islands.

Rental System

The Crown land on Anegada and Salt Island continues to be used by inhabitants free of rent, but elsewhere in the Colony Crown land is rented on annual tenancies or on a month to month basis. The policy regarding the leasing of Crown land remains the same *i.e.* rental based on a figure between 3 and 6 per cent of the unimproved value of the land subject to review every 25 years. Between private

persons the usual holding is of annual tenancy under verbal agreements for cash or consideration in kind, normally one-third of the produce.

The Agricultural Small Holding Act of 1938 provides a security of tenure and compensation for improvements where tenancies are entered into under written contract or where the tenant has been in occupation on annual tenancy.

Water Resources

The water resources of the Colony are mainly springs, wells, "guts" (in the rainy season) and roof catchments. Water points developed by the Public Works Department have played a valuable part in alleviating the water problem of the Colony. Householders are tending to construct more and larger concrete storage tanks with, in some cases, financial assistance provided by the Government under the Cistern Loan Fund or from the Virgin Islands National Bank. The average rainfall is approximately 48 inches. The rainfall recorded was 41.98 inches in 1961 and 47.85 inches in 1962. There are recurrent droughts when scarcity of water is a constant problem.

Soil conservation continues to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture. Preliminary work for the protection of six guts was completed during the period under review, and legislation declaring these "water areas" was due to be passed early in 1963.

AGRICULTURE

The Land Use Survey Team recognised the fact that the islands are exceptionally well endowed with the finest of natural resources for tourist development—accessibility, climate, scenic beauty of hills, beaches and the surrounding waters—but confirmed that agriculture should continue to be the major land use. There are several factors, however, which tend to militate against agricultural development—the scattered nature and rugged topography of the islands, erratic rainfall with prolonged periods of severe drought, steady employment offered for much better remuneration in the tourist industry in the nearby United States Virgin Islands, large quantities of refrigerated food imported from the continental United States into the United States Virgin Islands, the absence of organized marketing arrangements and the small average acreage (holdings of two to five acres) available to peasants for agriculture purposes. In spite of these difficulties, the Government is making every effort to encourage agricultural production, especially the production of fruits and vegetables, by the extension of the food crop nursery so that farmers will have more planting material available to them.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of policy in regard to crop and animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries.

During 1961 the staff included a Superintendent of Agriculture, four Agricultural Officers, one chief Stockman and one Farm Foreman.

Policy is directed towards the development of the livestock industry as the basis of the agricultural economy of the Colony. The activities of the department are organized so as to maintain and improve animal health, increase production through breeding methods and improve and extend pastures; provide planting material for crop husbandry; protect forests and conserve soil and water; and encourage fishing largely through the medium of a loan scheme.

Besides the Agricultural and Fisheries Loan Schemes, the Department of Agriculture administered three schemes relating to agriculture financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, as follows:

Scheme D2788 A & B.	Grass production and demonstration.
Scheme D2794.	Stock farm.
Scheme D3573	Forestry and soil conservation.

The Scheme for grass production and demonstration, which deals primarily with the production of pangola grass and the demonstration of improved methods of pasture management, has proved its worth. Pangola grass is more nutritious than guinea grass and is more resistant to drought; it is ideally suited for the Colony, and farmers who have now been convinced of its value are increasing their planting.

Operation of the stock holding ground commenced in July 1961 and by the 31st December 1961 42 cattle had been purchased for a sum of \$3,271. During 1962, 128 animals were purchased for \$10,995. The sale of 146 animals at the end of 1962 resulted in a profit of \$1,595. Owing to an outbreak of anaplasmosis there was a loss of six cattle valued at \$601. Dr. Luther Fahland, veterinarian for the U.S. Virgin Islands, rendered very valuable assistance in connection with blood testing not only of this herd but also of many herds in the Colony.

Agricultural Shows were held both in 1961 and 1962. 186 animals were exhibited in 1961 and 208 in 1962. The pangola and guinea grass pastures exhibited were of a very high standard and the areas exhibited under food crops were also of a good quality.

Crop Husbandry

The principal crops grown in the Colony for the period under review were:

Sugar cane. Cane is grown principally for the manufacture of rum. Some 60 acres of deteriorated varieties yielding approximately 420 tons still stand. New varieties have been imported by the Department of Agriculture for multiplication and distribution to growers. Nine hundred and ninety-three gallons of rum were exported in 1961, valued at \$2,985 and in 1962, 507 gallons valued at \$1,551.

Limes. The acreage under cultivation is small, but limes continue to fetch high prices in both local and export markets. 38 barrels were exported in 1961 yielding \$373 and 59½ barrels yielding \$417 in 1962.

Coconuts. Some 120 acres are under cultivation with a yield of approximately 60,000 nuts. Coconuts continue to be used locally as pig and poultry feed. Seed nuts of the dwarf variety were imported by the Department of Agriculture in 1961 for sprouting and later sold to growers. Exports in 1961 amounted to 29,332 nuts valued at \$2,505 and in 1962, 33,300 nuts valued at \$2,651.

Bananas. The area under cultivation has increased slightly from 50 to 70 acres. 1,154 bunches valued at \$3,101 were exported in 1961 and 1,553 bunches valued at \$2,521 in 1962. There is a great demand for this fruit locally as well as for export and the prices are very good. The Department of Agriculture has introduced new varieties in order to increase yields.

Food Crops. The value of exports in 1961 showed a considerable decrease as compared with the previous year. The value exported during 1962 was \$12,127. The importation from Puerto Rico of such commodities as sweet potatoes, yams, tannias, plantains, etc. continues.

Production Methods

All the farms are peasant-owned and are operated on a family basis with practically no wage labour, but with a certain of free reciprocal farm help. Cultivation is entirely by hand implements, there being no animal-drawn or power-driven agricultural machinery. The system of cultivation is shifting or rotational, alternating from food crops to pastures and ultimately secondary bush. The cycle begins again after the land has rested for a period of two to three years. The practice of clearing pastures by burning is being discouraged by the Department of Agriculture and is disappearing slowly. Most of the fertile land is to be found on hill slopes at the higher elevations and in the Valleys, and there is little presence of per-

manent terraces, manuring and systematic rotation of crops. The Department of Agriculture continue to give advice to farmers in different districts on the proper techniques of farming. The soils of the Colony are for the greater part too light to sustain permanent cultivation, except for pasture grass, the cultivation of which in a permanent form is the principal agricultural activity.

Marketing

Produce continues to be marketed direct to the consumer by the producer himself or his family, or is sold in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, the sole export market, through an agent who is usually the captain of the sloop which transports the commodities and who sells them for the producer. The producer not infrequently, however, takes the produce himself to St. Thomas for sale. Although this method of marketing is extremely wasteful of time, production as a whole has been on too small a scale to justify the establishment of organized marketing facilities.

The main weekly market day in Road Town is Saturday. The site previously used was not ideally suited for the purpose and a temporary market has been erected on another site.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The livestock industry continues to be the backbone of the economy, the islands being topographically and climatically suited to the cultivation of grass and the production of livestock. The Department of Agriculture has continued to encourage cattle farmers to improve pastures in order to raise the standard of animals produced.

An additional area of approximately 76.94 acres at Paraquita Bay was acquired by Government in 1961, bringing the total acreage acquired to approximately 276.94 acres for the establishment of a holding ground as envisaged in the report and development programme submitted by A. de K. Frampton and H. C. Biggs in 1958. Animals are purchased by the Government from farmers who are obliged to sell before maturity, and are held for a period of three to six months when they are either exported or resold to local farmers. The Scheme, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds in the first instance, is expected to be self-supporting.

By the end of 1962 about 56 acres had been fenced and planted with pangola grass and provided with water supplies.

Dr. D. E. Faulkner, Liaison Officer for Research and Development in Animal Industry in the former Federation of The West Indies, visited the Colony and submitted a report during the period under

review: this report has been accepted by Government. Mr. Hugh C. Miller, of the Caribbean Organization, also visited the Colony and submitted a report which has been accepted by Government.

Livestock

Cattle. There was a decrease in the export of cattle in 1962, when 771 cattle were exported as compared with 832 in 1961. Prices rose slightly during the period under review to a level of 14 to 16 cents a pound live weight in the Colony and 18 cents a pound in St. Thomas. There was a recurrence of anaplasmosis during the latter part of 1961 but measures to prevent its spread were taken.

During December 1961, 86 blood samples were taken to Puerto Rico to be tested not only for anaplasmosis, but also for brucellosis. The samples proved negative for the latter but 35 proved positive to anaplasmosis. Those animals with positive results were sold for slaughter.

Sheep and Goats. The demand for these animals is steadily increasing. Breeding stock from the Agricultural Station is still limited. Two pairs of the Barbados black-bellied sheep which were ordered in 1960 arrived in 1962. One pair was ordered for a farmer and the other pair for the Department of Agriculture, to be used for crossing with the Black-head Persian owned by the Department, as well as crossing with local sheep and for pure breeding.

Pigs. The demand for pigs is steadily increasing. The breed kept at the Agricultural Station for pure breeding and for crossing is the Berkshire. Vaccination against swine fever continues as a preventative measure.

Horses. Seventeen mules and one horse were exported to the French West Indies during the period under review. Interest in breeding horses for racing continues. A new stallion has been purchased for the Agricultural Department to replace the one which died in 1959.

Poultry. Although refrigerated chicken is easily available, the local preference for fresh meat and eggs has led to the establishment of four poultry farms.

Marketing. While there is no marketing organization the Department of Agriculture provides inspection and weighing services. Traders from the French West Indies buy cattle by live weight direct from the farmer for cash. The pattern of shipping livestock to the Virgin Islands of the United States by the owner is gradually disappearing and, generally speaking, such purchases are made by a local trader who is in touch with the St. Thomas butchers.

Efforts to improve Production

The Department of Agriculture owns and operates a 68 acre stock farm at Road Town, Tortola and produces grade-cattle, pure-bred sheep, goats and pigs for sale to farmers and for stud and breeding purposes. Sales in 1961 and 1962 were as follows:

					1961	1962
Cattle	.	.	.	.	6	3
Sheep	.	.	.	.	6	10
Goats	.	.	.	.	4	4
Pigs	.	.	.	.	6	13

Because of irregular and primitive methods of cultivation, pasture management is still regarded as an important factor in the development of the livestock industry. Eight five-acre demonstration plots mainly of pangola grass have undoubtedly proved their worth. A number of stock raisers have seen the benefits of pangola grass, systematic grazing and good fencing. There is an increasing demand for pangola grass and it is estimated that since its introduction in the Colony over 300 acres have been planted. The use of fertilizers is also encouraged but is slow to develop.

The agricultural credit scheme for pasture improvement has been of considerable benefit to farmers. During 1961 and 1962 the following loans were issued by the Department of Agriculture:

1961	27 loans totalling \$7,160
1962	14 loans totalling \$3,660

Loans are issued against the land as security. For the purpose of obtaining a loan the land is valued at \$60 an acre and a farmer may borrow up to the equivalent of two-thirds of the value of the land, the maximum amount of any loan being \$1,000. The nominal value of the land is being reviewed, with a view to enabling farmers to obtain larger loans.

FORESTRY

Ninety-two acres of the Sage Mountain Forest on Tortola were acquired during 1959 with funds presented to the Government by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. The area included all the remains of the xerophytic rain forest together with some denuded lands. At the end of 1961 the acquired area was fenced. Reafforestation was undertaken in the areas which had been deprived of their entire forest cover. The species used were Honduras mahogany (*Swietenia Macrophylla*), West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia Mexicana*), red cedar (*Cedrela Mexicana*) and white cedar (*Tabebuia Pallida*).

The conservation and extension of forests and wooded areas present no practical technical difficulties, but owing to the fact that most of the land is owned in small lots by peasant proprietors the question of conservation is presenting a sociological and political problem which is by no means easy of solution.

The land around six of the main "guts" in Tortola has been demarcated and declared protected areas under the provisions of the Protection of Tree and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance, 1954.

The Department of Agriculture maintains two forestry nurseries and trees are given to farmers on request free of charge as part of a re-afforestation programme.

FISHING

Fishing Areas and Methods of Fishing

The coastal waters of the Colony abound with edible fish, but among them are some dangerous varieties which are noted for poisoning and caution should be exercised. Fishing activities are conducted mainly within the coastal areas. The principal methods of catching fish are by fish traps, line fishing and seines.

The chief fishing centres in descending order of importance are Anegada, Peter and Salt Islands, West End (Tortola) and Jost Van Dyke. There are also many offshore banks which could be exploited by using deep-sea methods. The typical fishing boat is a fore and aft rigged sloop about 18–24 feet overall, sometimes with a live well tank. These boats are mostly powered by diesel inboard engines. Smaller boats are also used, ranging in size from 12 to 18 feet overall, and powered by outboard engines.

Marketing

Almost the entire catch is marketed direct to the consumer by the fishing boats. Catches are also delivered at sea by fishing boats to the commercial launches on their way to St. Thomas for marketing. The price of fish was 18 cents a pound locally, but towards the end of 1962 20 cents a pound was charged, and between 30 to 35 cents a pound in St. Thomas. A fisherman's council assists in regulating the local price of fish.

The recorded exports of fresh fish over the past four years have been as follows:

1959	.	.	.	.	49,119 lbs.
1960	.	.	.	.	72,225 lbs.
1961	.	.	.	.	61,430 lbs.
1962	.	.	.	.	63,585 lbs.

The records cannot, however, be accepted as accurate because of the practice of taking fish at sea from small fishing boats by commercial passenger launches for sale in St. Thomas. Except in Anegada few people live entirely by fishing, and few boats could be classified exclusively as fishing boats.

The only form of assistance provided by Government is the Fisheries Credit Scheme, under which loans are granted to fishermen to purchase fishing gear and engines.

During 1961 and 1962 the number of loans issued was:

1961	17 loans totalling \$4,237
1962	4 loans totalling \$1,220

MINING

A geological survey completed in 1955 revealed that copper indications are common in the Colony, there being scarcely a cay on which some malachite strains cannot be found. Mineralisation is most prominent on the island of Virgin Gorda where copper ores, including native copper, were raised from an old mine last operated in 1867. The survey showed that the copper is evidently accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenite. This mine, which is situated on Government land on which most of the mineralisation in Virgin Gorda occurs, was investigated for copper and molybdenum by a private mining concern and a 40 inch vein molybdenum was found. The lease to prospect was extended for a period of two years from April 1960. A Minerals Vesting law was passed in 1962 which vests all minerals in the Crown. There is also legislation in force controlling the prospecting, mining and export of radio-active minerals.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The economy of the Colony is largely agricultural but there are a number of manufacturing industries which diversify the economy to a limited extent. These include the distillation of rum for local consumption and export to the United States Virgin Islands. Owing to a shortage of labour locally the cultivation of sugar cane from which the rum is manufactured has declined. There are seven rum distilleries, all situated on the island of Tortola. The rapidly increasing demand for improved materials is met by twelve hollow concrete block-making plants of which three are situated at Carrott Bay, four in Road Town, two in Long Look, Tortola, one in Diff's Bottom, Tortola and three at Virgin Gorda. During 1961 the aerated

water factory commenced operation under new management and before the end of 1962 a large bottling plant was installed. Another aerated water factory is also in operation. There are two commercial stone crushing plants in operation at the end of 1962. The Government owns an ice plant which is capable of producing two tons of ice a day, but only on rare occasions has there been a demand for the maximum output. Straw and basket work on a cottage industry basis continues to benefit many people.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

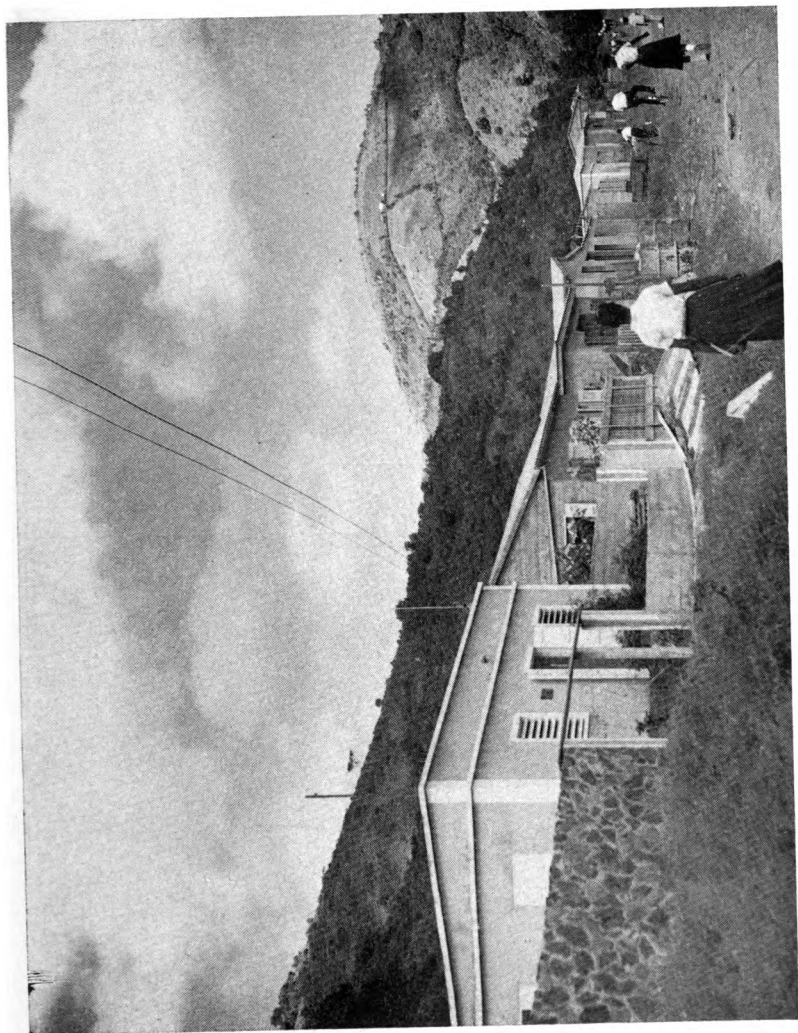
Education continued to be administered by a Board of Education which advises the Government on all questions of policy and by an Education Officer who is responsible for the implementation of policy decisions, and who is also Secretary to Government.

The primary schools are managed by the respective denominational managers (the Principal of the Government Secondary School in the case of the Road Town School) and are under the general supervision of the Primary Schools Commission, which consists of the managers of all primary schools and the Education Officer. The Commission deals with staff matters. An Examinations Committee was set up in 1961 to be responsible for all internal examinations in the Colony.

There has been no change in the legislation affecting education in the Colony during the period under review. Consideration was given, however, to enacting legislation to repeal certain sections of the Education Ordinance of 1955 and to make provision for the establishment of an Education Authority. The principles of a draft ordinance were approved by the Board of Education during 1962 and were subsequently to be discussed with the Colonial Office.

Primary Education

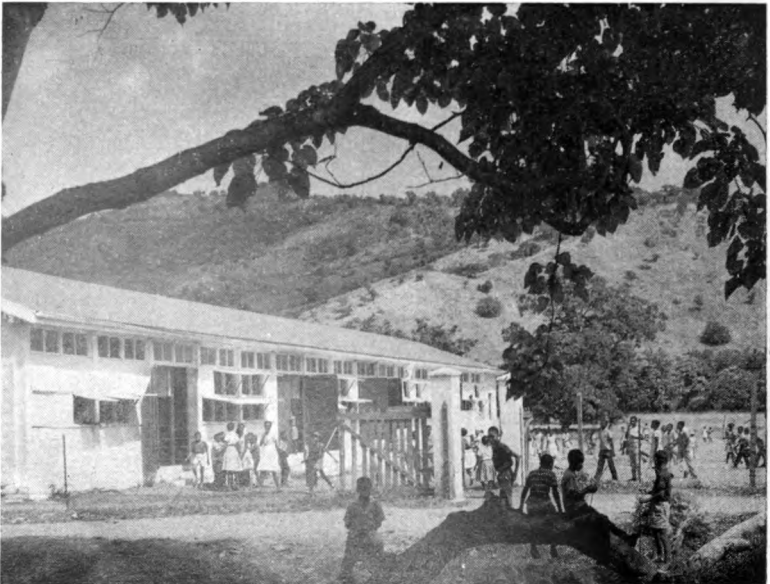
There are three types of primary schools in the Colony: Government, assisted and private. A Government school is one established and maintained wholly from public funds. Assisted schools fall into two categories, fully and partly aided. A fully aided school receives grants from public funds to pay all teachers' salaries and in addition



Huntumns Ghut Housing Scheme, Tortola



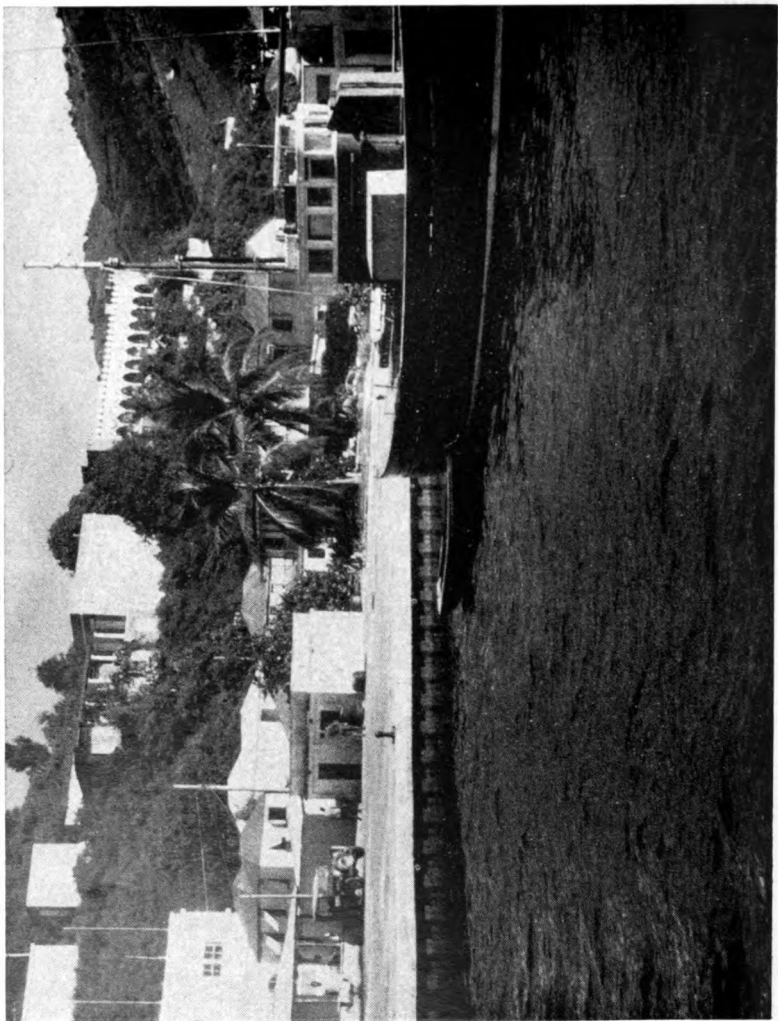
A carpentry class at the Road Town Secondary School



Children playing outside Road Town Primary School



Cane Garden Bay, Tortola



Road Town New Wharf

all expenses such as furniture, equipment and incidental expenses, are also paid by the Government. The only practical difference between this type of school and a Government school is that in the former case the building belongs to a denominational body. Non-denominational schools assisted by Government receive a grant towards some of the expenses of running the school. The latter category includes Community Schools, which are small schools in which the teaching is confined almost exclusively to the basic subjects, operated by private persons in areas where primary schools have not been established or where the distance from a primary school is considered too far for the younger children. The children usually attend the Community School until they reach the age of 9 or 10 years and then are transferred to a primary school. One denominational school functions without any assistance from Government. At the end of 1962 there were one Government primary school, 12 assisted schools (10 Methodist, 2 Anglican), three community schools, one private school (Seventh Day Adventist) and two private infant schools.

School enrolment in 1961 was 2,118, and 2,222 in 1962. The primary schools were all organised into infant, primary and post-primary departments. The post-primary department is divided into three classes, juniors, sophomores and seniors. The numbers of children in the various departments of the primary schools were as follows:

	1961	1962
Infant . . . }	1,801	1,838
Primary . . . }		
Post-Primary .	317	384

During 1962 separate reports on all the primary schools were submitted by Dr. Elsa Walters, Senior Lecturer in Education in the University of the West Indies, together with a general report. Efforts are being made to implement her recommendations within the Colony's limited finances.

A new Government school building was completed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds at Meyers, and was due to open in 1963.

Secondary Education

There continued to be one co-educational secondary school in the Colony, which prepares pupils for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate and the General Certificate of Education. The curriculum includes English, Bible knowledge, geography, West Indian history,

Latin, Spanish, general science, health science, mathematics, home economics and woodwork. During the period under review enrolment was as follows:

		Boys	Girls	Total
1961	:	37	82	119
1962	:	42	80	122

The results of the School Certificate Examinations were as follows:

		No. entered	No. passed
1961	:	15	14
1962	:	12	7

Two candidates sat the Higher School Certificate Examination in English and mathematics and passed, one passing in both subjects at principal level.

Community Education

A Community Branch of the education service was set up in January 1962 under a Co-ordinator of Community Education. Included in this branch are the library services. As the branch is in its infancy little progress in adult education has so far been possible but several lectures, film shows, debates and musical programmes were organised. Night classes in English, arithmetic, Spanish and mechanics were organised with a fair measure of success.

Teachers

The following table shows the qualification of teachers in all schools:

TEACHERS, 1961 AND 1962

	Secondary Schools		Primary Schools		Community Schools		Private Schools	
	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962
Graduates	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Trained	4	4	19	17	—	—	1	—
Untrained with School Certificate or Leeward Islands Teachers Certificate	2	2	11	12	—	—	1	—
Untrained with no Certificate	—	—	12	10	4	4	—	1
Student Teachers	—	—	22	22	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	9	64	61	4	4	2	2

Teachers are trained at the Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College, Antigua. In July 1962, one teacher was sent to the University of the West Indies to take a course in education leading to the Diploma, and the home economics teacher at the secondary school was awarded a Commonwealth bursary to study home economics at Bath College of Domestic Science in England.

Two in-service courses were run in 1962 by personnel from the University of the West Indies. As a result of the implementation of the Salaries Commissioner's report all teachers received increased salaries in 1961.

Education Extension

The Library continues to give good service. At the end of 1962 there were 10,799 books in the library and 1,243 registered borrowers. The library services, as a part of the community education branch of the education service, are the base for further extension work under the Co-ordinator of Community Education. The cost of education for 1961-1962 was as follows:

	1961 \$	1962 \$
Primary Education	105,442	97,783
Secondary Education	25,530	23,236
Community Education	4,463	8,342
Teacher Training	2,784	2,848
Other Education	—	6,964
Administrative (not allocated)	1,700	1,526
TOTAL	137,919	140,699

General

There is still a crying need for new and better school buildings. In many places the teachers are forced to work in very crowded buildings, the majority of which were built as places of divine worship and are in fact still used as such.

At the end of 1962 a new school building was being constructed at Virgin Gorda Valley by the Anglican Church to replace the existing school there, which will result in an immense improvement of conditions.

PUBLIC HEALTH

General Health

The health of the population in the Colony during the years 1961 and 1962 was good. Lack of fresh fruit and vegetables and poor sanitation account for most cases of ill-health. It has not yet been possible to appoint a trained sanitary inspector to the Medical and Health Department, nor any public health nurses, and as a result not much work in this field was accomplished. Incidence of gastrointestinal diseases continues to be high, and the number of cases of amoebiasis could be described as disturbing. The *Aedes Aegypti* campaign continued to make progress despite the unpopularity of the scheme and at the end of 1962 the index was reduced to three per cent.

Vital Statistics

At the end of 1962 the population was estimated at 7,700, the last count being in April 1960, when the Census was taken. The following table shows births and deaths in the period under review:

	1961	1962
Number of births	261	283
Number of deaths	111	70
Number of deaths under 1 year	21	14
Number of still births	9	7

On the basis of the estimated mid-year population for 1961 and 1962 the following figures emerge:

	1961	1962
Crude birth rate per thousand	34.3	36.8
Crude death rate per thousand	14.6	9.1
Infant mortality rate per thousand	80.5	49.5
Still birth rate per thousand	34.5	24.7

Staff

Up to the end of 1961 all medical and health services were provided by the Government. At the end of 1962 the contracting firm of Taylor Woodrow (Overseas) Ltd. provided limited medical services for their workmen in Virgin Gorda. The Superintendent of Medical Services, who is Chairman of the Board of Health, is assisted by a single Medical Officer. There were no private practitioners in the Colony. Both Government doctors are allowed private practice. Clinics were held for children and indigents three times a week in Road Town, once a week at East End and once monthly at Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke. It was no longer necessary to hold clinics at West End, Carrott Bay and Cane Garden Bay. Since the construction of roads to these areas usable by jeeps patients come in to attend the clinic at Road Town. Clinics were held regularly during 1962 in the out-islands as the Government launch worked very satisfactorily, but during 1961 the clinics were very irregular owing to the frequent breakdown of the launch and the fact that there was only one medical officer available during the absence of the Superintendent on leave. Free service was provided at the clinic during the period as follows:

In 1961, 1,845 at the clinic and 4,022 at the Casualty Ward, and in 1962, 2,320 at the clinic and 2,430 at the Casualty Ward. Dental clinics for school children continued on a part-time basis. In 1961, 1,073 visits were made, and 1,210 visits in 1962.

Plans for extending the hospital have been under consideration for some time, but owing to the insufficiency of funds it had not yet been possible to implement them. There is need for a mental observation ward and a larger nurses' home. The present accommodation

provides 32 beds for medical, surgery and maternity cases. There were 634 admissions to the Government Hospital and 26 deaths in 1961, and 704 admissions and 24 deaths in 1962, compared with 555 admissions (30 deaths) in 1959 and 537 admissions (22 deaths) in 1960. For the greater part of 1961 the Superintendent of Medical Services was on leave and there was only one medical officer in the Colony. Difficulty was also experienced in recruiting nursing staff, but the position improved during 1962 when three staff nurses returned from Jamaica (two in 1961 and one in 1962) and the senior staff nurse returned from the United Kingdom on completion of a ward sister's course. The junior dispenser/laboratory technician was sent to Jamaica to take a course in laboratory techniques. At the end of 1962 the establishment under the Superintendent of Medical Services included one medical officer, two laboratory technicians, one untrained sanitary inspector, one matron, four staff nurses at the hospital and two district nurses.

Expenditure

The total expenditure on the medical and health services was \$78,883 in 1961 and \$72,648 in 1962.

HOUSING

The Colony's standard of housing was good by West Indian standards and continued to improve. Almost all the houses are constructed of concrete, stone masonry or hollow concrete blocks. Wood is seldom used now in house construction because of termites. Thatched houses, once common, especially on Tortola, have disappeared almost entirely. It is estimated that 80 new houses were built during 1961 and 100 completed or nearing completion by the end of 1962. The acute housing shortage in Road Town was somewhat alleviated by the construction of several houses with a view to renting. The Government sold eight house lots in the Macnamara area adjacent to Road Town in 1961 and by the end of 1962 one house had been completed and was in use, while others were under construction. A decision was also taken to set aside a portion of Crown Land at Lower Estate for housing and it is hoped that 25 house plots will be made available.

The question of town and country planning is receiving attention in connection with the formulation of a new development plan. A Building Authority is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Building Ordinance, 1955 and controls the construction of buildings in Road Town and East End/Long Look. Unfortunately there is as yet no building code and therefore no means of requiring persons building houses to conform to certain standards.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The only organised Government welfare service is public assistance. Social welfare activities are carried out by several different groups and an attempt to bring them together under one Council of Voluntary Social Services did not meet with the success hoped for. The Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade and Junior Red Cross are represented in the Colony. Six Scouts attended the Jamboree in Trinidad in 1961, and two members from the Boys' Brigade went to St. Vincent for a week to attend a training course. The St. John Ambulance Brigade, with branches in Tortola and Virgin Gorda, continued its work in first aid, and the British Red Cross Society continued to function. The welfare organisations of the Anglican and Methodist churches also played their part in welfare work. Government gave the Public Assistance Committee a grant of \$500 towards the cost of almshouses in Long Look and Virgin Gorda Valley. At the end of 1962 the building at Long Look was completed and put in use, but the almshouse at Virgin Gorda was still under construction.

Chapter 8: Legislation

THIRTY-SEVEN Ordinances were passed by the Legislature in 1961 and eight in 1962. Statutory Rules and Orders made amounted to 32 in 1961 and 16 in 1962.

1961

Of the Ordinances passed in 1961 the most important were:

- (a) The Wild Bird Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides for the prohibition of certain methods of killing wild birds.
- (b) The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, which creates a new offence of causing death by reckless and dangerous driving.
- (c) The Anegada Ordinance, which repeals and replaces the Lands Title Anegada Ordinance, 1885, provides for the allotment of Crown Lands in the island of Anegada and seeks to regulate dealings in land in that island to ensure that the inhabitants' rights to the use of the land are clearly established.

- (d) The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, which amends the law relating to Vehicles and Road Traffic in its provisions as to speed limits. The Ordinance further empowers the Public Transport Commission to declare speed limit areas by publication and to place signs at the limits of such areas.
- (e) The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment No. 3) Ordinance, which makes provision for the granting of concessions by the Administrator in Council to operate omnibuses and for matters incidental thereto. The Ordinance also empowers the Public Transport Commission to fix the maximum number of passengers or weight any motor or animal-drawn vehicle may carry.
- (f) The National Parks Ordinance, which constitutes the National Parks Trust for the purpose of administering National Parks and provides for the creation of National Parks in order to preserve the natural beauty and other features of park lands in the Colony. This Ordinance was about to be brought into force at the end of 1962.

1962

The most important Ordinances passed in 1962 were:

- (a) The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, which provides for the payment of compensation for injuries and death caused to workmen by accident arising out of and in the course of their employment.
- (b) The Sedition and Undesirable Publications Act (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides for the declaration of publications as undesirable.
- (c) The Minerals Vesting Ordinance, which provides for the issuing of licences to would-be prospectors and vests all minerals in the Crown.

Subsidiary Legislation

The most important Statutory Rules and Orders made were:

- (a) The Workmen's Compensation Rules;
- (b) the Proclamation bringing into operation the National Parks Ordinance with effect from the 1st January 1963;
- (c) the Juvenile Court Order, which established for the first time a juvenile Court in the Colony.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the Colony by the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrates' Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of statute law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the colonial territories and therefore extend to the Colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the Colony.

From the 1st January 1950 the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands (now the Colonies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands). The Court is presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. The Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction has the power to hear and determine all matters that are heard and determined in England by the High Court of Justice.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed £175 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £250.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters. There is a right of appeal to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance, and by leave, from any interlocutory order made in the court of any proceedings.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of £75 in contract and £37.10 in tort. The Colony is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the court is prescribed by the Magis-

trate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61 of the Leeward Islands Act as adapted for use in the Virgin Islands by the Adaptation of Laws Regulations, 1956). Appeals from decisions of the Magistrate lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands and appeals against the decision of that Court may be made to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal. The Crown Attorney is also the Magistrate.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases heard by all courts are given in the table on page 41.

POLICE

The Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Force which is under the command of a Superintendent with headquarters in Antigua is, for the purpose of administration, divided into three Divisions, viz: Antigua with Barbuda and Redonda as "A" Division under the immediate command of the Superintendent, Montserrat as "B" Division under the immediate command of an Assistant Superintendent, and the British Virgin Islands as "C" Division under the immediate command of an Inspector. The position of the Virgin Islands force in the event of the formation of a federal police force for an Eastern Caribbean Federation was under consideration at the end of 1962.

The strength of the Force in the British Virgin Islands at the end of 1962 was one Inspector, two Corporals and six Constables; this was an increase of two Constables over 1960. There are police stations at Road Town and East End, Tortola, on the airfield, Beef Island and at the Valley, Virgin Gorda. All the stations with the exception of that at the Valley, Virgin Gorda are in Government-owned buildings. A new police station is now under construction.

Thirty Local Constables assist the Police when necessary and wear uniforms on duty. Local Constables receive a small monthly retainer and are paid for periods of active duty.

In addition to normal police duties the Police are responsible for road traffic in all its aspects, immigration, firefighting and the maintenance of the airfield on Beef Island.

The Police along with a small number of volunteers were active and maintained a state of preparedness. Their equipment includes a new fire engine, purchased in 1960, and a number of the most modern fire extinguishers, purchased in 1962. There was only one case of fire during the period under review. There were no major incidents such as earthquake, hurricane, air crash or other disaster.

Crime

There was no serious outbreak of crime. The following table gives details:

**TOTAL CRIMES AND OFFENCES DEALT WITH
BY THE POLICE**

						<i>True Reports</i>	<i>Persons taken to Court</i>	<i>Persons Convicted</i>
1961	.	.	.	.	.	238	237	186
1962	.	.	.	.	.	242	207	166

TOTAL CONVICTIONS

						1961	1962
Wounding and Assaults	.	.	.	.	.	20	18
Larcenies	.	.	.	.	.	14	7
Animal theft	.	.	.	.	.	—	—
Malicious damage	.	.	.	.	.	2	—
Minor offences and contraventions	.	.	.	.	.	150	141

PRISON

The penal administration in the Colony is governed by the Prison Ordinance, 1954 (No. 12 of 1954) and Regulations made thereunder (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 25 of 1956 and Statutory Rules and Orders No. 31 of 1961).

There is one prison with accommodation for a maximum of 36 prisoners. Under the United Kingdom Prisoners Act, 1869, arrangements have been made for the removal of prisoners from the Virgin Islands to the Colony of Antigua when necessary.

The Inspector of Police is also Officer in Charge of the Prison with an assistant appointed from among the police personnel. There was no permanent matron or warden, but the services of both were obtained when necessary by the temporary employment of suitable persons. A resolution was passed by the Legislative Council in 1962 calling for the appointment of a prison Warden, and it was hoped to implement this in 1963. A visiting committee of Justices of the Peace, among other functions, advises the Officer in Charge on the running of the prison.

During the period under review the number of prisoners received was as follows:

						1961	1962
Convicted	.	.	.	.	.	14	7
Remanded	.	.	.	.	.	2	9

Prisoners were employed on general labour inside the prison and, when required, outside cleaning at various Government departments. Prison discipline was good, as was the health of prisoners.

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentence remitted provided their conduct and industry are good.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES, 1961 AND 1962

	<i>Supreme Court</i>		<i>Summary Court</i>		<i>Magistrate's Court</i>		<i>All Courts</i>	
	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962
Civil cases	10	10	4	7	58	51		
Criminal offences charged	4	3	—	—	233	363		
Accused persons . .	4	3	—	—	233	363		
Convictions	1	1	—	—	185	215		
Acquittals	3	2	—	—	13	29		
Charges withdrawn .	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Juveniles:								
Charged							12	14
Acquitted . . .							2	13
Convicted . . .							10	1
Summary punishments:-								
Imprisonment . .							15	6
Fines							147	130
Otherwise disposed of							24	79

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY is supplied to Road Town and its immediate environs on a 24-hour basis by three 60 kW. three-phase 110-volt A.C. diesel generators. The number of consumers rose from 306 at the end of 1960 to 408 at the end of 1962, representing an increase of nearly 100 per cent in four years. The current electricity rates per unit of 1 kWh. are as follows:

Domestic Rates.	15 cents per unit for the first 20 units. 9 cents per unit for the next 30 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 50.
Commercial Rates.	9 cents per unit for the first 400 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 400.
Lighting Rate.	15 cents per unit.

The system has been extended to include the settlements fringing Road Bay as far as Fort Burt to the west and Baughers Bay to the east. Consideration is being given to an extension of the service to East End/Long Look, which is now the largest populated area in the Colony, and the Regional Engineer of the Colonial Development Corporation visited in December 1962 and made a report on this matter.

ICE AND COLD STORAGE

Two thousand two hundred and forty pounds of ice can be produced daily from the ice plant, which has operated since 1959 and an ice store with a capacity of 504 cubic feet ensures an adequate supply of ice at all times. Ice is sold daily at the plant at the rate of \$1.40 a block of 56 pounds or \$1.12 a block in lots of 560 pounds or more. In addition three cold storage rooms with a total capacity of 980 cubic feet are available to the public for renting on a monthly basis.

WATER SUPPLIES

The public water supply of the Colony may be classified as follows:

(a) *The Road Town Water Supply.* The population of Road Town is served by (i) a pipe-borne water system with its source in the upper reaches of Long Bush Gut; (ii) numerous shallow wells, and (iii) rain-water collected from the roofs of buildings and stored in concrete cisterns. The pipe-borne system was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The supply reported in 1960 was augmented by the installation of a Sumo submersible pump in a suitable shallow well in 1961, resulting in an uninterrupted supply of running water for over a year for the first time in the Road Town area.

(b) *The Country and Out-islands Water Supply.* With the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare funds the Government has been able to complete a programme of improvement of numerous water points in the country districts and out-islands. The programme included the construction of cisterns, spring boxes, troughs and protective aprons around wells and the reopening and sinking of wells in strategic locations. Notwith-

standing the public supply of water, most householders continue to depend mainly on the storage of rain-water caught on roof tops for consumption and domestic purposes. Cistern loans, which are made available through a revolving fund financed from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, continue to play a valuable part in augmenting the amount of water made available to householders throughout the Colony. Twenty-five loans (not exceeding \$500 each) totalling \$9,800 were made available in the two-year period ending December 1962. The provision of adequate supplies of water for human needs and for livestock still remains a problem, especially in years of low rainfall but no cases of extreme hardship were reported in the period under review.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department carried out building construction and maintenance works totalling \$32,030 in 1961 and \$65,046 in 1962 and road construction and maintenance works totalling \$95,599 in 1961 and \$142,933 in 1962.

The Meyers School and the Great Mountain Road were constructed by local contractors in 1962 at a cost of \$12,600 and \$7,800 respectively, and the jetty and contiguous reclamation works at Road Town were undertaken and completed in the period 1961 to 1962 by SAMOS of Trinidad at a cost of \$140,000. A new four-ton mobile crane, primarily for use on the new jetty, was purchased by the Public Works Department during the period.

The Department, with a small but adequate technical staff provided in part under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, was headed by a fully qualified civil engineer until May 1962, when the post became vacant on completion of contract, and at the end of 1962 efforts were in train for the engagement of a replacement. Arrangements are being made for the gradual transfer to the budget of some of the staff who are at present employed on a temporary basis from the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme mentioned.

The establishment of a new and up-to-date mechanical workshop was completed, and a plumbers' and joiners' workshop was nearing completion in December 1962.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

ROAD TOWN, the capital, is the only port of entry, but customs stations at West End and Jost Van Dyke provide limited customs and immigration facilities for boats plying regularly between the British and American Virgin Islands. It is hoped to provide limited facilities for the handling of passengers' baggage at the Valley, Virgin Gorda, by the time that the Little Dix tourist resort comes into operation in 1964. It is a long-standing source of regret that there is no air or steamship service between the Colony and other countries, with the exception of the daily passenger launches operating to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. Recently the individual tonnage of vessels calling at Road Town has increased significantly, and regular calls are made by various boats including a locally owned ocean-going motor vessel of 300 net tons.

In 1961 there were 3,895 entries of sloops and launches, which carried 14,050 tons of cargo and 22,300 passengers. In 1962 entries of vessels amounted to 5,280 carrying 15,000 tons of cargo and 30,100 passengers; 5,250 vessels were cleared carrying 1,400 tons of cargo and 30,400 passengers.

The contract for the construction of a new jetty at Road Town, including the reclamation of a sizeable area of land and for the dredging of the approaches to the jetty was undertaken and completed during 1962, thus increasing the facilities for sea-going traffic.

Communications between the islands of the Colony and the coastal settlements not served by roads is by sloop or motor launch. The Government maintains a launch which is available to the Administrator and also makes scheduled visits for medical and administrative purposes to the main islands of the Colony. The north coast settlements of Tortola, formerly served by launch, are now accessible by vehicles.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

The motorable road system of Tortola has expanded significantly over the past two years and many villages not previously served by vehicles now have motorable access to Road Town. The north-western settlements of Cane Garden Bay, Ballast Bay and Long Bay, and the ridge settlement of Fahie Hill, Harrigan, Meyers, Diamond

and Doty have been opened up to four-wheel-drive vehicular traffic. Existing roads are being improved as rapidly as funds permit with the aim of making them motorable whilst a more ambitious undertaking, the surfacing of the Cemetery/Purcell Road between Road Town and Baughers Bay was completed in 1962. Other surfacing projects included 700 feet at Hog Point and nearly half a mile at Paraquita Bay, east of Road Town, and the Porter Road which thus became the second paved street in Road Town. Fourteen hundred feet of the steep slopes of Zion Hill in the Western District was also surfaced in 1962.

In 1961 there were 232 registered motor vehicles and 442 bicycles. In 1962 there were 296 motor vehicles and 535 bicycles.

Most of the roads of the Valley, Virgin Gorda have been improved to vehicular standards and over a mile of the Pond Bay road between the Valley and the Sound in Virgin Gorda has been bulldozed to motorable standard by the owner of the Little Dix resort project, under the terms of his lease of the land from the Crown.

CIVIL AVIATION

The grass-surfaced airfield at Beef Island, which is located close to the eastern extremity of Tortola and to which access is gained by a manually operated ferry capable of accommodating motor vehicles, is 1,800 feet long by 100 feet wide and can accommodate light, twin-engined aircraft carrying some six passengers. There is no scheduled air service to the Virgin Islands, but charter flights from St. Thomas, St. Croix and Puerto Rico operate regularly. The number of landings by chartered aircraft increased substantially in 1962. Following the improvement of the surface of the runway, Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) have indicated a willingness to resume operations and other private concerns have indicated their interests in operating scheduled air services. Permission for the operation of a scheduled service between Beef Island and U.S. territory has, however, not yet been granted. In 1961 there were 344 landings on the airstrip at Beef Island and in 1962 there were 637. Toward the end of 1962 an American company applied for permission to operate a daily sea plane between St. Thomas and Road Town, and the matter is under consideration.

The Director of Civil Aviation for the Windward and the Leeward Islands continued to advise the Government on aviation matters.

The nearest large airport is in St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands, 25 miles distant from Road Town, Tortola.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The internal radio-telephone system with voice stations in Road Town and West End, Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Anegada, Beef Island and the Valley, Virgin Gorda and operating through an automatic repeater station on Mt. Todman, Tortola, continued to present maintenance problems during 1961-1962. The services of a fully qualified radio technician, made available to the Colony on a year's secondment from International Aeradio Ltd. and financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, have, however, resulted in marked improvement. There are current proposals to replace and extend the network, to include Cane Garden Bay on the north coast of Tortola and the North Sound, Virgin Gorda, by more suitable equipment which would permit of greater flexibility.

The external link with St. Thomas continues to provide a valuable service that can permit direct connection to other countries of the world.

A 20-line telephone system, designed principally to serve the needs of the Government, but permitting of limited service to private enterprise on a party line basis resulting in a total of 50 telephones, was established in Road Town. There is evidence, however, that a commercial system to serve private needs is necessary. During 1962 a radio telephone link operated jointly by the Government and Cable and Wireless was established between Tortola and Antigua.

POSTAL SERVICES

The postal administration continued to function as a separate department of the Government, with the Treasurer carrying out the duties of postmaster. The General Post Office is in Road Town and there are sub-post offices at West End and at East End (Tortola) and on Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Mails and telegrams are received and despatched daily, except Sundays, through the General Post Office and the new Telecommunications Centre. All mail, except surface mail for territories in the Eastern Caribbean, is routed through the St. Thomas Post Office at Charlotte Amalie in the United States Virgin Islands, which receives and despatches air mail daily.

The postal services continue to provide a potential source of Government revenue through the sale of postage stamps.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

THE *Tortola Times* went out of circulation in 1961 and a new publication, the *Island Sun* made its first issue on 24th June 1962.

BROADCASTING

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony.

FILMS

There is no local film production or distribution. A commercial cinema in Road Town shows up-to-date 16 mm. films three nights a week. Films on loan from the Central Office of Information are shown by the Community Education branch of the Education Service.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

After the cessation of the *Tortola Times* and until the *Island Sun* began publication, Government issued a weekly news-sheet. Public Notices are issued as required and an Information Sheet is available to persons who wish to obtain information about the Colony.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, contain over 40 British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution the islands fall into four groups. To the south with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow, three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from the United Kingdom. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands except Anegada rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil, limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably among the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a pleasant sub-tropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87° F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67° F. Sea breezes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10° F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes—mainly *Croton balsamiferum*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of a most interesting and unusual forest type. It has no

counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola.

Being of great scientific interest this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Of the census population of 7,340, 6,262 live on Tortola. Some 1,500 people live in Road Town, the capital, and its environs and some 1,800 at East End/Long Look, the only other area in the Colony approaching the size and status of a township. The overall density of the Colony, 124.4 persons per square mile, means very little. Of the 1,078 people who do not live on Tortola all except 74 live on Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke. The rest, i.e. the 74, live in very small communities on six other islands.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources, and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the Colony. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions for home consumption, the surplus being exported to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. In recent years agricultural production has markedly declined largely as the result of a dwindling agricultural population due to the attraction of labour to St. Thomas.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass, and for many years there has been a thriving livestock industry. Latterly, however, even this has tended to decline. Cattle do well in the islands and a first-class beef breed, the Nellore, has been developed. The size of the islands and the absence of flat land contributed to the decline of estate agriculture and its replacement by small-holdings worked, with few exceptions, by the

owner-occupier. Being always near to the sea and often in need of ready cash, it is not unnatural that the small-holder is often a fisherman as well.

In her report, made during 1962, Dr. O'Loughlin drew attention to the great part which the tourist industry would have to play if the Colony was ever to develop sufficiently to extricate itself from grant-aid. There is substantial tourist potential deriving from the territory's charm and interest as an unspoilt area for sailing, boating, fishing, bathing and riding, offering a haven to people who wish for rest and relaxation in a natural setting as distinct from more sophisticated resort areas.

The tourist industry is making good progress, and should receive considerable impetus in 1964, when the Rockefeller resort in Virgin Gorda comes into operation. While therefore the economy of the Colony is still largely centred around the livestock industry and remittances from persons working in St. Thomas, with a minor contribution from subsistence ground provision production and fishing, the part played by the tourist industry is rapidly increasing. The products both of the livestock and the fishing industries find a ready market in the Virgin Islands of the United States. There are very few manufacturing industries as such; those that exist are conducted on a comparatively small scale.

Copper occurs in exploitable quantities in one area of Virgin Gorda and was at one time worked but is now considered to be uneconomic, although the copper is accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenum.

While many of the amenities regarded as commonplace elsewhere, particularly in communications and water supply, are still lacking in the Colony, and while, as in any other country, it will take substantial capital investment and expert technical guidance to make the most of the territory's natural resources, there are signs that the development of the economy is beginning to gather momentum.

COMMUNICATIONS

Capital is especially needed to develop the Colony's communications, which remain its most immediate single requirement. The provision of more roads, including a scenic road along the central mountain ridge in Tortola, and improved air and sea facilities, would have far-reaching effects on the development of tourism and agriculture. At the moment inaccessibility is one of the Colony's major problems, and together with topographical, soil and water deficiencies makes difficult the establishment of a sound economic structure.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgines in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595 when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy."

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board." The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lb. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of two official and three nominated unofficial members was substituted. This form of Government was abrogated in 1902 when the

Governor-in-Council became the sole legislative authority. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was again granted to the islands in 1950.

On the 1st July 1956 the Leeward Islands Council was de-federated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a Colony.

Following are some of the important dates in the Colony's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate Colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1871 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature re-constituted.
- 1956 De-federation of Leeward Islands Colony and Establishment of Colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December 1959 and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on the 1st July 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I., No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2, chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) separate Colonies.

The Administrator, The Queen's personal representative in the Colony, is advised by an Executive Council constituted by the Virgin Islands Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, 1959. It consists of the Administrator, two official members, one member nominated by the Administrator from among the nominated members of the Legislative Council and two elected members, elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. At the end of 1962 the Council was made up as follows:

<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. H. O. Creque (Acting Treasurer)
<i>Nominated Member</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (Member for Trade and Production) Hon. H. L. Stouff (Member for Works and Communications)

During the period under review Mr. H. A. Besson, Crown Attorney, Mr. W. St. P. M. Hancock, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. N. E. A. Harrigan, Secretary to Government, had been official members while holding public office in the Colony. Mr. H. O. Creque is a temporary member of both Councils in place of Mr. N. E. A. Harrigan, who was absent on study leave from September 1962.

The Legislative Council constituted by the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1954 (No. 7 of 1954) was constituted as follows at the end of 1962:

<i>President</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. H. O. Creque (Acting Treasurer)
<i>Nominated Members</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P. Hon. J. R. O'Neal, M.B.E., J.P.

Elected Members

Hon. I. Dawson (Member, Tortola North)
Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (1st Member,
Tortola Central)
Hon. I. G. Fonseca, J.P. (2nd Member,
Tortola Central)
Hon. L. F. Malone (Member, Tortola
East)
Hon. H. L. Stoutt (Member, Tortola
West and Jost Van Dyke)
Hon. T. H. Faulkner (Member, Virgin
Gorda and Anegada)

It has not been found practicable, in the absence of any local interest or initiative, to implement the District Councils Ordinance, 1952 (No. 7 of 1952), which provides for a system of local government. On the out-islands (Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke) the Administrator appoints a Local Government Officer from among the local people. The position carries a small salary and the person selected for appointment is usually also a Local Constable and/or Road Warden, and receives remuneration as such. He also receives 10 per cent commission of all taxes and licences collected for the Government

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Standard imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

HANDBOOKS AND GUIDEBOOKS

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HOLDRIDGE, DESMOND. *Escape to the Tropics*. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1937.

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SMITH, GLANVILLE. *Many a Green Isle*. Bodley Head, 1942.

YOUNG, E. & HELWEG-LARSEN, K. *Caribbean Cocktail*. Melrose, 1955.

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APPENDIX

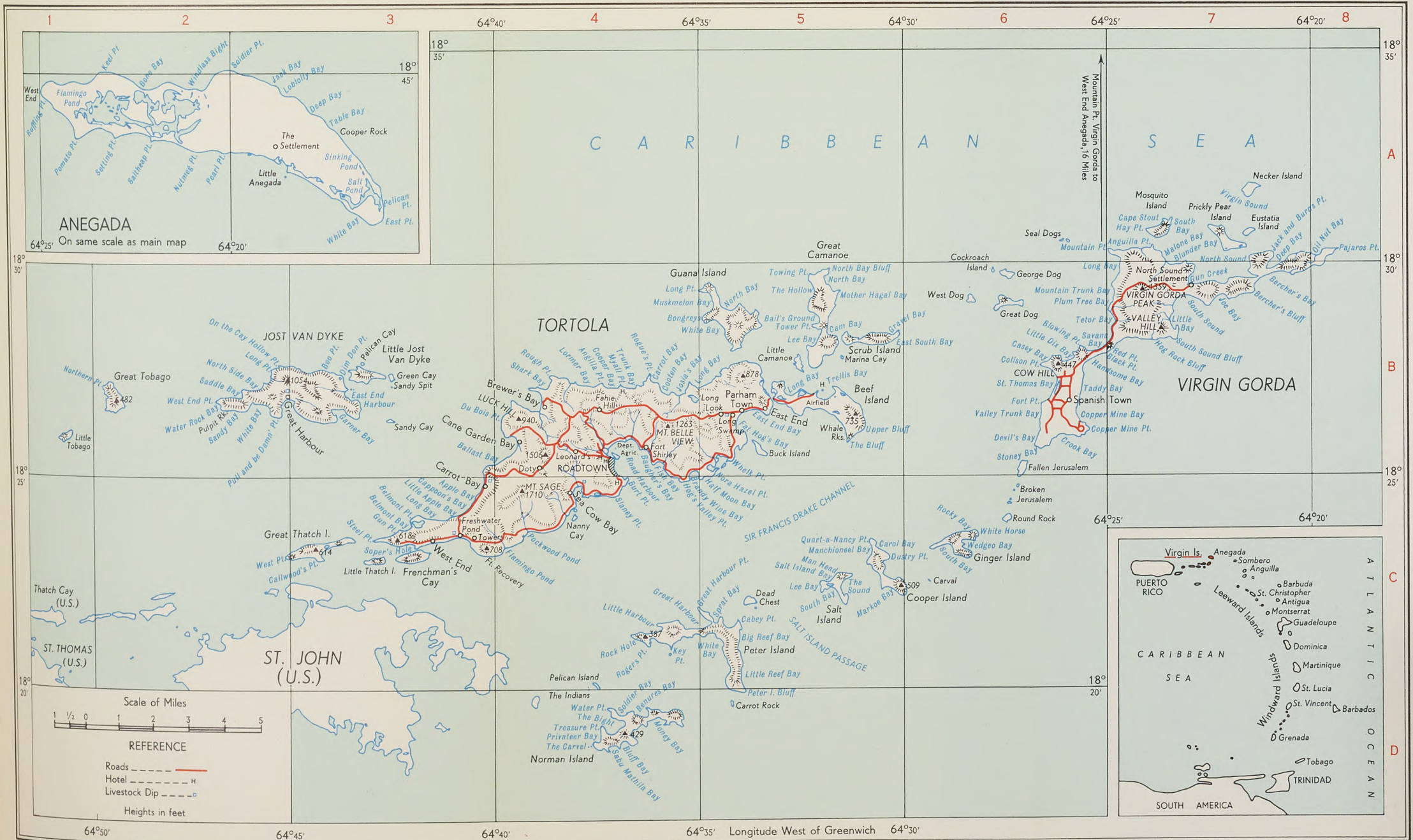
COLONIAL REDEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.60	Expenditure to 31.12.61	Remarks
D.1933A & B	East End Road	\$ 83,022.80	\$ 82,342.47	\$ 82,577.54	
D.1941	Public Works temporary staff	18,200.00	16,545.58	16,495.43	
D.13E(F)	Manufacture of Fishmeal	1,400.00	769.74	769.74	
D.13D(AB)	Experiment with fodder conservation	840.00	432.23	432.23	
D.201C(1)	Electricity extension	602.00	494.39	494.39	
D.2118B	Creation of piped water supply in Road Town	2,800.00	—	2,070.18	
D.2567 & A	Training of teachers at Erdiston College	3,060.40	3,060.40	3,060.40	
D.2651(32)	Visit of expert in tourism	504.00	108.78	108.78	
D.2651(37)	Agriculture and forestry	554.40	537.22	537.22	
D.2658(5)	Training in agriculture	840.00	562.21	565.21	
D.2658(131)	Training in forestry	179.20	150.95	150.95	
D.2658(212)	Training in radiotelephony	310.80	297.50	297.50	
D.2717(42)	Pilot project, production of green vegetables	1,400.00	1,121.99	1,121.99	
D.2759	Marine light, Ginger Island	2,800.00	2,223.30	2,223.30	
D.2760	Purchase of agricultural machinery	7,980.00	7,477.26	7,477.26	
D.2799 & D.2788A	Grasslands management	14,736.40	13,004.45	13,727.83	
D.2789	Major Bay school	12,880.00	6,001.22	6,006.24	
D.2890/6	Vocational training	70.00	62.24	62.24	
D.2890(23)	Vocational training	46.48	41.50	41.50	
D.2965	Public Works equipment and workshop	14,000.00	16,001.78	16,001.78	
D.2794 & A	Stock farm	115,309.60	35,772.34	59,017.61	
D.3035 & A & B	Beef Island airstrip	46,200.80	38,304.85	38,304.85	
D.3036	Public Works temporary staff	10,875.20	7,786.37	7,786.37	
D.3095(3)	Assistance to youth organisation	—	153.75	153.75	
D.3135	Sea Cow Bay/West Ind./Baughers Bay/Belle Vue road	70,840.00	35,096.39	43,051.37	
D.3134 & A	Hospital extension	36,400.00	37,021.61	37,021.61	
D.3279(21)	Caribbean vocational training	23.24	20.00	20.00	
D.3279(30)	Caribbean vocational training	139.44	119.38	119.38	
D.3351	Angledozer	26,639.20	26,360.44	26,360.44	
D.3497	Training courses (Virgin Islands)	3,360.00	2,250.10	2,529.68	
D.3563	Training teachers at Erdiston College	2,396.80	2,396.80	2,396.80	
D.3384	Public Works temporary staff	28,826.00	17,555.52	24,000.00	

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31. 12. 60	Expenditure to 31. 12. 61	Remarks
D.3569 & A	Country water supplies	\$ 22,400.00	\$ 20,736.56	\$ 21,288.15	
D.3573	Forestry development	5,600.00	1,105.55	2,646.68	
D.3592	Town planning	924.00	456.58	502.41	
D.3736(31)	Caribbean vocational training scheme	333.20	329.85	329.85	
D.3736(40)	Construction of barge-ferry between Tortola and Beef Is.	—	22.50	22.50	
D.3678	Vocational training	3,080.00	—	—	
D.3736(7)	Purchase of market site	114.80	101.80	—	
D.3757	Land use survey	5,600.00	5,496.82	5,496.82	
D.3773	Construction of health clinic, Sound, Virgin Gorda	3,099.60	3,580.43	3,580.43	
D.3806	Road development Out Island	8,400.00	27.91	27.91	
D.3831	Cane Garden Bay jetty	8,400.00	5,906.03	6,226.81	
D.3825	Purchase of land, playground and health clinic, Major Bay	8,120.00	8,082.00	8,082.00	
D.3860	Construction of Quarters for additional tutor, Eastern	4,760.00	4,799.77	4,799.77	
D.3906	Caribbean Farm Institute	98.00	—	98.00	
D.3964	Meyers school	12,000.00	211.90	219.40	
D.3968	<i>Aedes Aegypti</i> campaign	16,016.00	6,525.40	10,166.56	
D.4006	Training in telegraphic communication	252.00	243.30	243.30	
D.4037	Bridge, Frenchmans Cay	2,800.00	538.78	5,748.65	
D.4139	Training courses	1,181.60	714.74	714.74	
D.4139	Secondment of radio technician	11,200.00	2,052.91	7,727.11	
D.4170	Plant, Public Works Department	24,721.20	25,519.74	25,523.02	
D.4275	Public Works temporary staff	47,600.00	3,874.66	44,188.38	
D.4356	Purchase of Redifon radio-telephone	1,456.00	—	1,422.19	
D.4506	Road Town/Baughers Bay road	48,199.20	—	14,909.91	
D.4602	Nuntums Ghit/Great Mountain road	14,000.00	—	1,136.02	
D.4603	Improvement of wharf and harbour facilities at Road Town	71,719.20	3,312.29	91,463.66	50% of cost met from local funds
D.4781	Electricity ice and cold storage undertaking	19,401.20	—	19,401.20	
D.4801	Temporary jetty, Road Town	9,601.20	—	3,547.20	
D.4862 & A	Purchase of additional equipment, Public Works Dept.	10,502.80	—	7,535.25	
D.4922	Purchase of long wheel base Land Rover for Agricultural Department	2,800.00	—	11.07	

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Report for the years
1963 and 1964

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1966

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NOTE: United States currency is used throughout this report except where otherwise stated.

PART I

General Review of 1963 and 1964

ADMINISTRATION

THE colony continued to be administered by Mr. M. S. Staveley, C.B.E. At the end of the Administrator's first tour of duty in May 1964, Mr. H. Burrowes, a former Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, acted as Administrator for three months. The Crown Attorney acted and deputised for short periods during the two years.

POLITICAL

General Elections were held throughout the colony in November 1963 which resulted in some changes in both the Legislative and Executive Councils. All seats were contested by independents. A combination of two candidates on a single platform in the Road Town district led to the election of both but no other groupings were apparent.

The division of the Legislative Council into "Government" and "Opposition" remained rudimentary but was strengthened when, for the first time in history, a member of the Executive Council resigned his seat in October 1964 and then "crossed the floor".

There was considerable speculation during the period under review about the political future of the colony and the question of integration with the Virgin Islands of the United States was discussed in the press and elsewhere largely as a result of the forthright manner in which the subject was dealt with by Mr. Nigel Fisher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on a visit to the territory. It is now established that the British Government has no intention of proposing any change in the status of the territory unless this is strongly requested by the people themselves.

The subject of constitutional development was also one in which interest developed over the period under review. Proposals sent out by the Colonial Office failed to provide a basis for further action, and by the end of the year the Secretary of State had decided to appoint a Commissioner to investigate the whole question of constitutional reform.

INTER-VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

Relations continued to be cordial. There were no meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference during the period under review but two joint committees set up by the Conference to deal with matters of Public Health and Labour had submitted reports on which action was due to be taken early in 1965.

THE ECONOMY

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War the traditional agricultural economy based on small scale farming, particularly the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. Defence projects in the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands which took away a high percentage of the local labour force and the rapid expansion of the tourist industry in recent years have caused the labour situation to become acute. The traditional agricultural economy has suffered severely as a result. In the meantime the considerable tourist potential of the islands has been discovered and the development side by side of the agricultural segment of the economy and the tourist industry has become the basis of Government policy.

The two years under review were mainly years of planning and preparation for development. A Development Advisory Committee appointed in 1962 produced a report which was published in May 1963 and fully endorsed by the Legislative Council. The Committee succeeded admirably in a by no means easy task in producing a plan which could convince the authorities in the Colonial Office and others of the need and serve as a basis for development over the next few years.

Although the immediate objectives of the plan have had to be revised in the light of financial circumstances the Committee's report sets out the basic lines of development up to 1966, and will, it is hoped, have been largely fulfilled by that time.

Development and other planning was much helped by several important visits and reports of technical advisers. In 1963 Messrs. Coode and Partners produced a report on a waterfront scheme for Road Town which is of the greatest possible significance to its proper development and the relief of the already pressing traffic problem. A Canadian water engineer submitted a report on measures to improve Road Town water supply. Mr. P. H. M. Stevens, a town planner with the Barbados Government, produced a report on problems of town and country planning, and Dr. Wilson and Mr.

Campbell of the University of the West Indies investigated the possibilities of the improvement of agriculture. In 1964 Mr. G. B. Dix, a town planner from the Building Research Station in Britain, reported on the presentation of town plans for the main areas of population and Mr. C. E. Wilson, a British customs official, prepared a draft Customs Duties Bill which is intended to modernise the antiquated customs machinery.

In conjunction with planning solid achievements also took place.

In the field of tourist development the Little Dix Bay Resort owned by Mr. Laurence Rockefeller was opened with great success in January 1964, and formally dedicated in the presence of a very large gathering, since when it has maintained a high average occupancy rate. The Long Bay Estate in Tortola was opened early in the year and has since expanded its facilities with encouraging results and prospects. Extension has also taken place on Marina Cay and the re-opening of the Beef Island Shipyard is a welcome development.

Schemes for sale of house plots for prospective residents or vacation homes have begun at Spyglass Hill, West End, and Long Bay, East End, Tortola and developments of great importance to the tourist industry are expected at Belmont Tortola, Beef Island and Mosquito Island. A significant proposal was made by Pittsburgh University to establish an oceanographic research station in Virgin Gorda. In 1963, nine licences were issued under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act involving development commitments totalling \$164,000 and ten in 1964 totalling \$1 million.

Communications were improved by a small extension to Beef Island airfield and renovation of the surface, and the building of a new air-field on Virgin Gorda by Mr. Rockefeller for operation by the Government under lease. A broadcasting station is projected for 1965 and agreement in principle has been reached between the Government and Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for new internal and external telecommunications systems.

A contract was awarded to Messrs. Paulings (Caribbean) Ltd. for construction of a bridge linking Beef Island with Tortola and a coastal road between Road Town and West End.

In the period under review the colony's agriculture was hit by severe drought conditions and further declined. The agricultural future of the territory was being seriously examined.

The financial out-look is hopeful. The increase of revenue is satisfactory in all the circumstances, and if recurrent expenditure can be held back the objective of balancing the recurrent budget by

1975 as projected by Dr. O'Loughlin appears possible of attainment, although this will call for considerable self-discipline and a responsible attitude towards fiscal policy.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

The territory was forced into the position that, when financial and material resources are limited, the effort to plan for a higher standard of living demands restraint in social expenditure or even temporary sacrifice. Preoccupation with the provision of the infrastructure for economic development, therefore, stood in the way of any really significant social and cultural advances. It is generally accepted, however, that development is not only an economic process and that the social services should receive more consideration when further Development and Welfare funds become available.

In this field as well planning has been undertaken in the two years under review. The administration of education and the place of the Secondary School in the education system were subjects of investigation by Mr. R. S. Jordan of the Barbados Ministry of Education and Mr. V. N. L. Brissett of the Jamaica Ministry respectively. New legislation was drafted by the end of 1964 to improve the administrative machinery but buildings, furniture, equipment and text books and more trained teachers are urgently required if education is to make the necessary impact for development on the society.

Public Health Legislation was also in draft and it is hoped that this can be enacted in 1965 and will provide the machinery to deal with the serious problem of sanitation. Mr. H. Daldy of the United Kingdom Building Research Station submitted a report on building control.

It was recognized that rapid development magnifies latent stresses and strains and produces new tensions and that a climate of orientation towards change is required. In the hope of providing a positive means of assisting such orientation a Community Development Service was organized in 1964 to formulate a programme designed to promote community organization to enable the people to understand current issues and to participate fully in finding solutions.

A Colonial Development and Welfare research scheme was approved in 1964 to enable the Government, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, to produce an authoritative history of the Virgin Islands. A suitable candidate for the research post was still being sought at the end of 1964.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

A rapid turnover of staff in the Civil Service and the teaching service, particularly among junior staff, continued to pose a problem in the maintenance of a high standard of efficiency not only for the present but also to meet the changes of an expanding economy and constitutional advance. The present salary level is undoubtedly one contributory cause and active consideration was being given to conducting an investigation into salaries and conditions of service for public officers.

Training also remains a problem due to a dearth of suitable candidates and the difficulty in finding training institutions that would meet the immediate short term needs. One Administrative Secretary began a course in economics under an A.I.D. Scholarship at the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico in 1963, and another Administrative Secretary was nominated to attend a special course for overseas administrators at Oxford in 1964. The Secretary to Government completed a one-year course at the London School of Economics with the Diploma in Economics and Social Administration, and the Community Development Officer returned from a one-year course of training in community development at the London Institute of Education. Two headteachers were selected for training at institutions in Britain with awards under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Bursary Scheme. Two recruits in air-traffic control were receiving training in Trinidad.

Funds for training purposes are available from a Development and Welfare grant and a generous gift of \$20,000 from Mr. Percy Chubb II of New York and Peter Island.

At the end of the year all the senior posts in the colony had been filled by officers recruited on contract under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme, but the outlook for localization of the service is now better than it has ever been.

A welcome occurrence was the resuscitation of both the Civil Service Association and the Teachers' Association.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments:

1963 New Year Honours:

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Hon. Norwell Elton Allenby Harrigan, J.P.,
Secretary to Government.

1964 New Year Honours:

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Christopher Ralph Hammersley, Chairman, Public Service Commission.

VISITORS

The most important visitors to the colony during the two years under review were Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice in her capacity as Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. Her Majesty arrived on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* on the 18th March 1964 and left on the 19th. Although Her Majesty was convalescing from a recent illness she graciously consented to drive through Road Town in an open car and to receive the members of the Legislative Council at Government House. Her Majesty also enjoyed some of the attractions which make the island unique as a tourist resort.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice arrived on 20th March and left on the 21st. During her brief visit she met all the people in the community connected with the University and with education, attended a pageant depicting life at the University and addressed a public meeting.

Mr. Nigel Fisher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (who made the first visit of a British Minister while in office in ten years), accompanied by Mr. Douglas Williams of the Colonial Office, visited in January 1964. The Minister gained a first-hand knowledge of conditions in the islands which was useful both to himself and to the colony.

Other official visitors included Miss F. H. Gwilliam, Women Education Adviser, and Miss S. A. Ogilvie, Assistant Labour Adviser in the Department of Technical Co-operation (now the Ministry of Overseas Development), and Mr. J. E. Whitelegg of the Finance Department of the Colonial Office, who visited in 1963. Mr. C. G. Gibbs of West Indian Department A of the Colonial Office, dealing with the Virgin Islands, visited in 1964.

Welcome visitors also came from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Three members of the United Kingdom Branch visited in 1963 and in 1964 the Speaker of the Newfoundland House of Assembly visited on his way to a conference in Jamaica.

Two of Her Majesty's ships visited during the period under review, H.M.S. *Londonderry* in 1963 and H.M.S. *Whirlwind* in 1964, the latter wearing the Broad Pendant of the Senior Naval Officer West Indies.

GENERAL

1963 and 1964 presented a picture of the Virgin Islands as a group of islands limited by size, topography and a lack of natural resources, awakening to the possibilities of development after years of somnolence and economic stagnation, with difficult economic problems still to face but with increasing optimism and hope.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the colony was 7,340 in 1960, as recorded by the demographic census of that year, distributed as follows:

Tortola	.	.	.	.	.	6,262
Virgin Gorda	.	.	.	.	.	562
Anegada	.	.	.	.	.	269
Jost Van Dyke	.	.	.	.	.	173
Other Islands	.	.	.	.	.	74
TOTAL						<hr/> 7,340

The movement of people between the two groups of Virgin Islands has always been in relatively large numbers. The statistics for 1964, for example, show that 10,461 persons entered the colony and 10,368 left. The geographical situation of the islands makes an accurate check difficult. However, on the basis of statistics of movement and vital statistics (see Chapter 7, page 33) a rough estimate of the population for the years since 1960 is as follows:

1961	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,600
1962	.	.	.	.	.	.	8,000
1963	.	.	.	.	.	.	8,380
1964	.	.	.	.	.	.	8,619

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE lucrative employment in the tourist industry in the United States Virgin Islands continues to draw away a relatively high proportion of the population. This, together with the increasing tempo of development in the tourist industry in the colony, has resulted in a marked change in the basic composition of the community which has been described for the better part of this century as being small scale farmers, fishermen and sailors. Agriculture, once

the backbone of the economy, has declined particularly in the cultivation of ground provisions and vegetables, and although agricultural pursuits still rank high in the list of occupations, much is on a part-time basis.

The principal occupations in order of importance are now:

- (a) the public service—the civil service, education service and non-established workers;
- (b) industry—largely hotels;
- (c) building trades—construction, repairs, maintenance;
- (d) agriculture (whole and part-time);
- (e) transport services—land and sea passenger and freight;
- (f) commercial undertakings—stores, shops, banks, etc.;
- (g) fishing;
- (h) cottage industries; and
- (i) personal services.

Government continued to be the principal employer of labour. At the end of 1964 in addition to a number of skilled and unskilled workers in various fields, particularly public works projects including road construction and maintenance, 209 persons were employed permanently in the civil and educational services of the colony.

Little Dix Bay Resort at Virgin Gorda employed 202 persons at the end of 1964, contributing substantially to the place of industry being second in importance instead of ninth as indicated in the 1961/62 report.

The problem of obtaining skilled labour still exists due to the demand in the United States Virgin Islands, and the high rate of wages there as compared with the rates in the colony (U.S. \$12.00 to \$20.00 a day in the United States Virgin Islands compared with \$6.50 to \$12.00 a day in the British Virgin Islands).

Under the terms of an agreement with the Government, Mr. L. S. Rockefeller undertook to provide an airfield at Virgin Gorda, the length of which will be 3,160 feet at a cost of \$240,000. Construction commenced in October 1964, and it is expected to be completed in late January 1965. The work is being done by Monberg and Thorsen of Copenhagen, Denmark, and at the end of 1964 30 persons were employed on this project.

No labourers were recruited for employment in the sugar industry in St. Croix during the period covered by this report.

Domestic workers, waiters, labourers and artisans from the British Virgin Islands are allowed to enter the United States Virgin Islands to work under bond for a period of up to one year. Wages in most instances are not less favourable than those paid to the residents of

the United States Virgin Islands. At the end of 1964, it was estimated that more than 13 per cent of the total population of the colony was employed on contract in the United States Virgin Islands.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Except for civil servants, store clerks and domestic servants, workers are employed on a daily wage system. The normal working day is eight hours (except for civil servants), and workers are usually paid overtime at the rate of time and a half on weekdays and public holidays, and double time on Sundays. Wage rates are influenced by those in the United States Virgin Islands, but are generally a good deal lower.

As from 1st September 1964 the following wage rates came into effect:

Class of Worker	Daily Wages (8 hrs.)	
	Minimum	Maximum
MANUAL	\$	\$
General Labour	4.00	4.50
Semi-skilled	4.00	5.50
Steel Fixer, Bender	5.00	5.75
Mason, Blacksmith, Tinsmith and Fitter	6.50	10.00
Plumber	5.50	9.00
Skilled Worker	7.00	9.00
Carpenter	7.00	9.00
Joiner	7.00	10.00
Seamstress	4.00	5.00
MACHINE MEN		
Bulldozer Greaser	4.25	5.50
Concrete Mixer Driver	4.50	6.75
Driller and Blaster	5.00	7.00
Driller and Blaster Supervisor	9.00	10.00
DRIVERS OF:		
Light Tractors and Light Vehicles	5.50	6.00
Garbage truck, Roller and Truck, 3 tons and over	5.50	7.50
Heavy Duty Tractors	5.50	7.50
Macadam Spreader	7.00	8.50
OPERATORS OF:		
Cranes	6.50	8.00
Crushers	6.50	7.75
Bulldozers	7.00	12.00
SUPERVISORY		
Gangman (Headman)	7.00	10.00
Road Construction Supervisor	10.00	—
	Monthly Wages	Monthly Wages
	Minimum	Maximum
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$	\$
Domestic Servants and Waiters	50.00	60.00
Shop Clerks	60.00	65.00
	55.00	65.00
	60.00	75.00

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

During the period covered by this report, 14 labour disputes were settled by the Labour Commissioner who was duly appointed under the Virgin Islands Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950). No action was required under the laws relating to the establishment of minimum wages and the employment of young children.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are no labour organizations as such in the colony. However, the civil servants and the teachers are organized for the protection of their special interests. No form of collective bargaining exists. The Government daily wage rates are the basic rates in the colony but private enterprise generally pays much higher rates. Negotiations on wages, whether with Government or private enterprises, continue to be conducted on an individual *ad hoc* basis.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1962 was amended in 1964 by the deletion of the proviso to subsection (1) of Section 22. During 1963 and 1964 there were six claims for compensation from Government daily-paid employees and a total of \$1,550 was paid out in compensation.

During the period covered, there were six accidents, one of which was serious, ten persons injured, three of whom are incapacitated for about one year, and one man died on the spot.

Periodic inspection of work sites is carried out by the Labour Commissioner.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Although the need for a programme of industrial training is recognized it has not yet been possible to take action on the matter. A pilot project for training of school leavers in electricity and mechanics is being operated by the Public Works Department and it is proposed to extend this in conjunction with any new scheme that may be established.

A system of apprenticeship to carpenters, masons and plumbers is still carried out by private contractors, and the possibilities of integrating this with a comprehensive training scheme embracing the public and private sectors of the economy are now being explored.

It is recognised, however, that any training scheme is likely at present to suffer from emigration to the United States Virgin Islands where wages are substantially higher even for workers whose skills are inadequate.

During 1964 the Tortola Shipyard Co. Ltd. ceased major operations and the machine shop was closed.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

UP to the outbreak of the Second World War the colony boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finances of the colony.

During the period 1956-60 local revenue never exceeded 46 per cent of the budget and in those years rose only from \$164,000 to \$180,000. Grants-in-aid fluctuated between 54 per cent and 71 per cent of total expenditure, reaching a peak in 1961. While there was an upward trend in revenue, a steep rise in expenditure to improve and increase services created a fiscal situation in which deficit spending would apparently always be the rule.

During the period under review the picture began to change. A feature of the 1963 budget was the reduction of the United Kingdom grant-in-aid, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of expenditure, falling from 60 per cent in 1962 to 52.5 per cent in 1963. At the same time local revenue greatly exceeded the estimates.

A new format for presentation of the budget in two parts, Recurrent and Capital, was introduced in 1964. This gave a clearer picture of the financial position of the colony than was possible before. The overall grant-in-aid was reduced to less than 50 per cent, and over 66 per cent of the recurrent expenditure was met from local revenue which was double the revenue collected in 1961. The Government's fiscal and development policy is geared to the balancing of the recurrent budget as soon as possible.

A further advantage of the new system of grant-in-aid is that the Government will have more latitude than in the past in the use of savings achieved and of additional revenue accruing for capital expenditure instead of its reverting to the United Kingdom Treasury as it has usually done in the past.

The division of the budget between local revenue and grants-in-aid over the years 1960 to 1964 is as follows:

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964 (revised Estimates)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Revenue .	186,000	269,000	372,000	580,000	652,000
Grants-in-Aid .	448,000	595,000	532,000	508,000	328,000

Revenue figures for 1964 and estimated revenue for 1965 were satisfactory from the point of view of increases. It is the holding back of expenditure in the face of increased recurrent commitments generated by the increased activities of development which is the greatest obstacle on the road to financial solvency.

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

In addition to grants-in-aid of administration, funds continued to be made available for development purposes under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. Schemes approved under the present Act totalled \$782,675 from which \$716,659 was spent up to the end of 1964. Details of schemes showing authorised grants and expenditure appear as an appendix to this report, pages 59 and 60.

TAXATION

The principal revenue-producing taxes are customs duty and income tax.

In 1963 there were small but significant increases in the customs tariff on alcoholic liquors and beverages and petroleum products. No new duties or increases were levied in 1964. A considerable rise in the revenue accruing from customs duty was indicative of a higher level of business activity during the year.

Mr. C. E. Wilson, an experienced British customs official, visited in 1964 to overhaul the outdated customs machinery and to draft revised customs legislation, which it is hoped to introduce in 1965.

A substantial improvement in income tax allowances and reduction in the rates was achieved with the approval of the Colonial Office in 1964, with the object of bringing the incidence of income tax more into line with that in the United States of America, from whence much of the colony's investment capital comes. The present rates are as follows:

\$	\$	%
100	- 800	5
810	- 1,000	7½
1,601	- 2,400	12½
2,401	- 3,200	18
3,201	- 4,000	27
4,001 and over		32

The new rates resulted initially in a decrease in revenue and to meet the shortfall measures had to be taken to raise additional revenue. Other taxation charges during the years under review included increased vehicular tax, the abolition of the anachronistic

road tax, the imposition of trade licences, the reassessment of house and land tax on a more realistic basis without a change in rates and a reduction of company tax to 12 per cent.

Details of revenue and expenditure for 1963/64 are as follows:

REVENUE		
	1963	1964
	\$	\$
Import Duties	212,179	269,744
Export Duties	2,677	2,501
Port, Harbour and Wharf Dues	1,901	4,889
Income Tax	43,660	74,134
Passenger Tax	10,306	14,429
Fees of Court and payment for Specific Services	35,489	48,200
Self-balancing projects	63,688	70,674
Post Office	149,550	102,386
Other Revenue	60,441	65,288
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	579,891	652,256
<i>From United Kingdom:</i>		
Grant-in-Aid	508,379	327,615
C.D. & W. Schemes	89,571	123,071
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	8,236	—
TOTAL	\$1,186,077	\$1,102,943
EXPENDITURE		
	1963	1964
	\$	\$
<i>Recurrent Expenditure:</i>		
Debt Charges	6,168	8,331
Pensions	25,888	16,710
Administration	90,863	72,612
Legislature	15,580	12,442
Community Development, etc.	—	8,003
Treasury and Customs	39,685	46,357
Agriculture	57,750	54,907
Audit	5,833	7,922
Education	149,582	147,259
Judicial and Legal	13,918	15,600
Medical and Health	79,386	93,898
Miscellaneous	55,478	71,854
Police and Prison	32,752	34,844
Post Office	17,059	14,826
Telecommunications	13,223	16,707
Civil Aviation	2,670	4,327
Electricity, Ice and Cold Storage	45,940	42,195
Public Works	35,649	60,386
Public Works Recurrent	146,070	115,873
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	12,609	15,552
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	846,103	860,614
Capital Expenditure	177,044	284,341
TOTAL	\$1,023,147	\$1,144,955

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE colony is in perhaps a unique currency position. It has no currency of its own but the currencies of Jamaica, the territories of the British Caribbean (Eastern Group) and of the United States of America are legal tender. The currency of the United States of America which had been the *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades became legal tender in 1959. The only currency now used in practice is that of the United States although the colony is part of the sterling area. Conversion within the colony from one currency to the other is unrestricted, but control is exercised over the amount of sterling area currencies which may be transferred to the colony for living purposes, investment or for conversion into United States dollars. Except where otherwise indicated all figures in this Report are quoted in U.S. dollars.

In May 1961 commercial banking facilities were established in the colony for the first time when the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas, which is owned and controlled by the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., established a branch in Road Town. In order to secure the establishment of the branch, the Government removed, as an incentive, certain of the restrictions in the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act applying to aliens and alien banks in connection with the acquisition of land by purchase or mortgage, so that where any land was mortgaged to a bank, in the event of foreclosure or sale, the bank would be free to deal with or dispose of such land without restriction whether the purchaser was an alien or not, and the purchaser of such land would likewise be free to sell to a British subject or an alien without restriction. The local branch engages in both short-term and long-term lending, the latter secured by mortgages for periods up to ten years. The local branch also operates a Savings Department.

The Government Savings Bank, existing primarily to encourage savings, was, prior to 1961, the only bank operating in the colony. The Savings Bank continued its services as heretofore but the number of depositors and the total deposits declined steeply during 1961 and 1962 as a result of transfers of savings to the Savings Department of the local branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas. The rate of interest on deposits is 2½ per cent and the

maximum deposit which an individual may make is \$4,200. Non-resident accounts are not normally permitted.

The accounts of the Savings Bank are kept in United States dollars and depositors are entitled to receive United States currency on withdrawal of their deposits. The following indicates the number of depositors and the total deposits for the period under review:

		<i>Number of Depositors</i>	<i>Amount of Deposits</i> \$
1963	:	583	62,186
1964	:	530	52,779

Savings Bank funds are kept in the Road Town branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas or are invested by the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations.

The Government operates a current account with both the head office and the local branch of the Virgin Islands National Bank of St. Thomas and with the Royal Bank of Canada in Puerto Rico, and permits sterling transfers to the colony through these facilities.

Towards the end of 1964 Barclays Bank D.C.O. announced their intention of establishing a branch in the colony early in 1965.

Chapter 5: Commerce

ALTHOUGH a preferential tariff exists for imports from Commonwealth countries, the trade of the colony is carried on principally with the United States of America and its Caribbean possessions, exports being confined almost entirely to the United States Virgin Islands.

The direction of trade was as follows:

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports</i>				<i>Exports</i>			
	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>	<i>\$000</i>
U.S.A., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	970	1,488	1,650	1,774	139	121	134	103
Britain	212	222	298	264	—	—	—	—
Leeward Islands	37	11	26	36	—	—	—	—
Other Commonwealth Countries	38	110	145	158	—	—	—	—
Other Foreign Countries . . .	68	150	171	201	4	15	—	3
TOTAL	1,325	1,981	2,290	2,433	143	136	134	106

The colony continued to have a substantial adverse trade balance, which was offset by remittances from British Virgin Islanders employed in the Virgin Islands of the United States, earnings by trading sloops which ply between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, by expenditure by foreign residents and tourists and by grants from British funds, in the form of grants-in-aid of Administration and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

Imports and exports in the years 1961–64 were as follows:

IMPORTS

<i>Commodities</i>	<i>Import by value</i>			
	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Timber	39,524	90,007	118,302	85,608
Machinery (all kinds) . . .	98,865	195,901	128,541	140,810
Flour	41,925	40,717	42,529	52,126
Oils (unedible)	38,166	82,149	106,807	126,528

IMPORTS—continued

Commodities	Import by Value			
	1961	1962	1963	1964
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sugar	35,421	39,483	31,249	52,893
Beer, Ale, Stout, Porter	46,929	66,517	61,230	67,361
Hardware	50,509	86,453	124,475	39,592
Apparel	29,628	40,232	52,357	115,626
Cement	40,232	67,694	84,003	88,662
Electric Apparatus	31,543	63,757	139,410	56,079
Motor Cars	65,159	50,155	37,091	65,945
Spirits	30,324	46,981	49,367	54,645
Meats (all kinds)	29,682	51,277	52,338	76,897
Milk (tinned)	27,300	37,561	42,549	53,348
Haberdashery	13,407	28,288	44,317	44,090
Boots and Shoes	16,862	26,603	20,389	24,087
Aerated Waters	16,921	17,936	16,860	30,073
Other	672,687	949,069	1,139,523	1,261,752
Total Value of all Imports	\$1,325,084	\$1,980,780	\$2,291,337	\$2,436,122

EXPORTS

Commodities	Export by Value			
	1961	1962	1963	1964
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Livestock	103,438	90,860	88,769	73,861
Fruit (fresh)	8,340	9,699	5,168	3,887
Fish (fresh)	13,227	14,360	20,092	11,322
Vegetables (all kinds)	4,171	8,016	2,688	1,887
Local rum	2,985	1,551	513	1,750
Gravel and Sand	3,543	1,491	1,138	330
Charcoal	4,016	3,057	2,526	2,454
Cement Blocks	124	597	2,738	1,175
Other	2,831	6,026	10,974	9,333
Total Value of all Exports	\$142,675	\$135,657	\$134,606	\$105,999

Chapter 6: Production

Land Utilization and Tenure

The total area of the colony as calculated by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys in 1958 is 37,608 acres. Tortola, being the largest island, contains 13,499 acres, Anegada 9,542 acres, Virgin Gorda 5,308 acres and Jost Van Dyke 2,084 acres. The whole island of Anegada which is of hard coral formation is unsuitable for any form of large-scale agricultural development, but the inhabitants plant fast-growing food crops during the rainy season. The main agricultural islands are Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

Several small islands, although not specially cultivated, are used for grazing small stock, i.e. sheep and goats.

It is very much regretted that the results of the Agricultural Census which was carried out during 1961 under the provisions of the Agricultural Census Order, 1961, have not yet been received.

Types of Tenure

The prevailing type of land tenure is freehold, acquired by outright purchase, inheritance under will, or, on intestacy, by inheritance in equal shares by all the children subject only to the interest of a surviving spouse. Restrictions are placed on the alienation of land under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act. There are relatively few land titles in the colony which are secure, other than where land has been acquired by the first purchaser from the Crown. Interminable property disputes arising from this chaotic state of affairs have become a characteristic feature of Virgin Islands life. The principal causes of disputes are uncertainty over devolution of title, or rights under tenancy in common, and uncertainty over boundaries. These disputes tend to cause shifting cultivation and other poor agricultural practices and preclude many farmers from benefiting from loans from the Agricultural Credit fund. Consideration has long been given to the measures necessary to provide a solution to these problems, including legislative provision for clarification of titles by a land tribunal, coupled with a cadastral survey and a proper system of land titles registration, but the high cost of such a survey and land tribunal is not within the reach of the colony with very little finance for development projects. One step forward has, however, been taken by the enactment in 1964 of the Facilities for Titles Ordinance (No. 3 of 1964).

In 1960 the Land Surveyors Ordinance (No. 13 of 1960) was passed providing for the licensing of surveyors to practise in the colony. At the end of 1964 there were 19 licensed Land Surveyors of whom six were resident in the colony.

Land Ownership

Land is owned either privately or by the Crown. Owners of private land may be native Virgin Islanders, other British subjects or aliens.

As a result of land transactions during 1963 and 1964 the position at the end of 1964 was as follows:

Crown Lands	.	.	.	.	.	15,121 acres
Native Virgin Islanders	.	.	.	.	.	16,827 "
Other British Subjects	.	.	.	.	.	1,485 "
Aliens	.	.	.	.	.	4,175 "

In 1963, 16 licences and in 1964, 20 licences were issued to aliens under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act to hold as owner, lessee or co-tenant along with other aliens. Twenty-six of the 36 licences were for the purpose of holding a total of 1,098 acres of land in the colony with a development commitment of \$1,212,000. Licences are granted on condition that some form of development, usually building construction, takes place within a stipulated period.

Crown land utilization is as follows:

- 75 acres used as the Agricultural Station and Government paddocks, Road Town.
- 117 acres selected for designation as National Parks.
- 261 acres as a Stock Holding Ground at Paraquita Bay.
- 4 acres as dipping vat sites.
- 256 acres leased to non-native British subjects.
- 759 acres leased to aliens.
- 13 acres allotted for housing development.
- 402 acres rented to peasant farmers.

The rest remains idle or is used rent free by local residents, but is available to be considered for use in schemes for the development of the territory. The bulk of Crown land is on Anegada, Virgin Gorda and some of the smaller islands.

Rental System

The Crown land on Anegada and Salt Island continues to be used by inhabitants free of rent, but elsewhere in the colony, Crown land is rented on annual tenancy or on a month to month basis. The policy regarding the leasing of Crown lands is as follows:

- (a) with the exception stated under (g) below, rentals will be based on 5 per cent of the unimproved value of the land at the date of commencement of the lease;
- (b) the unimproved value will be reviewed at intervals of 15 years;
- (c) lands will not be offered for lease except by tender, i.e. by inviting sealed bids;
- (d) tenders will normally be invited for 99 years but may be for 50 years in suitable cases;
- (e) the land must be used for a specified purpose, with a *minimum* development assessed in accordance with the Government's declared policy at the time, larger developments not being precluded in suitable cases;
- (f) the Government will place an upset value on the land, and the rental for the first 15 years will be based on 5 per cent of the upset price, the difference between the upset price and the amount of the tender being paid as a cash premium by the bidder on entering into the lease; and
- (g) local farmers will be charged a rental of \$1 per acre per annum for any Crown lands which they are permitted to cultivate or graze cattle on, payment being made for all areas so used.

Between private persons the usual holding is of annual tenancy under verbal agreements for cash or consideration in kind, normally one-third of the produce.

The Agricultural Small Holding Act of 1938 provides for security of tenure and compensation for improvements where tenancies are entered into under written contract or where the tenant has been in occupation on annual tenancy.

Water Resources

The water resources of the colony are mainly springs, wells, "guts" (in the rainy season) and roof catchments. Water points developed by the Public Works Department have played a valuable part in alleviating the water problem of the colony. Householders are tending to construct more and larger concrete storage tanks with, in some cases, financial assistance provided by the Government under the Cistern Loan Fund and from the Virgin Islands National Bank. The average rainfall is approximately 48 inches. The rainfall recorded was 42.65 inches in 1963 but only 31.75 inches in 1964, a total of 21.6 inches below average for the two years taken together. There are recurrent droughts when scarcity of water is a constant problem, 1964 being one of the most severe.

Routine work on soil conservation continues to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURE

General

The Land Use Survey Team which reported in 1960 recognised the fact that the islands are exceptionally well endowed with the finest of natural resources for tourist development—accessibility, climate, scenic beauty of hills, beaches and the surrounding waters—but confirmed that agriculture should continue to be the major land use. In consequence two experts from the University of the West Indies were invited to conduct a survey of the agricultural development needs of the colony in 1963. The policy which the Government would wish to adopt, following the report of the survey, is to assist both the agricultural segment of the economy and the tourist industry to develop side by side, concentrating on crops from local agriculture demanded by local hotels. It is realized that this policy is likely to entail a proper zoning of the land available into agricultural land and tourist development land so that the two interests do not have to compete one with the other for development room; a soil survey and classification and economic feasibility studies, and Town and Country Planning legislation. The limiting factors of scarcity of land, shortage of labour, lack of capital, the absence of trained managers, and above all the sociological problem of involving the people concerned are also fully recognized. With all this in view the Govern-

ment is carefully pursuing the question of the agricultural future of the colony.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of policy in regard to crop and animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries. During the period under review the staff included a Superintendent of Agriculture, one senior agricultural officer, five agricultural officers. The agricultural officers are primarily concerned with the extension work of the Department.

Policy is directed towards the development of the livestock industry as the basis of the agricultural segment of the economy of the colony. The activities of the Department are organised so as to maintain and improve animal health, increase production through breeding methods and improve and extend pastures; provide planting material for crop husbandry; protect forests and conserve soil and water; and encourage fishing largely through the medium of a loan scheme.

Besides the Agricultural, Pasture, and Fisheries Loan Schemes, the Department of Agriculture administered two schemes relating to agriculture financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds as follows:

Scheme D.2794
Scheme D.3573

Stock Farm.
Forestry and Soil Conservation.

Agricultural Shows were held in 1963 and the number of animals exhibited was 243. During the year 1964 there were no Agricultural Shows, due to the severe drought which resulted in poor condition of livestock and very little food crop production.

Crop Husbandry

The principal crops grown in the colony during the period under review were:

Sugar-cane is grown principally for the manufacture of rum. The cultivation of this crop is, however, declining steadily.

Limes: The production of limes is being encouraged. With the opening of new hotels in the colony the demand for limes is increasing and good prices are being paid.

Coconuts: The growing of coconuts is very important in the colony. An estimated 120–140 acres are grown on small estates and in scattered plantings mainly around houses and villages. The Department of Agriculture is continuing the selection of seed nuts

from high yielding trees for sprouting. The value of exports during 1963 was \$3,194 and in 1964 \$3,398.

Bananas: During 1963 the area under cultivation increased by approximately 40 per cent and with the use of fertilizer there has been a marked increase in yields; but in 1964 because of severe drought conditions there was a marked decrease in production and the use of fertilizer was restricted. The value of exports during 1963 was \$1,735.60 and in 1964 \$323.00.

Food Crops: The production of food crops increased by approximately 24 per cent during 1963. The local market was well supplied with ground provisions and vegetables with a fair quantity for export, but during 1964 production was greatly decreased due to severe drought conditions. The overall production of food crops has declined in recent years mainly due to the migration of farm labour.

Production Methods

Small holdings whether for raising livestock or growing crops are owned and operated on a family basis. Cultivation is mainly by hand implements. The system of cultivation is shifting or rotational, alternating from food crops to pastures and ultimately to secondary bush. The cycle begins again after the land has rested for a period of two or three years. Pastures are usually cleared by burning, a practice which the Department of Agriculture is trying to discourage. Most of the fertile land is to be found on hill slopes at the higher elevations and in the valleys, and there is an absence of permanent terraces, manuring and systematic rotation of crops. The soils of the colony are for the greater part too light to sustain permanent cultivation, except for pasture grass, the cultivation of which in a permanent form is the principal agricultural activity.

Marketing

Produce is marketed direct to the consumer by the producer himself or his family, or is sold in St. Thomas, the sole export market, through an agent, usually the captain of a sloop, who takes the commodities and sells them for the producer. The producer not infrequently, however, takes the produce himself to St. Thomas for sale. Although this method of marketing is extremely wasteful of his time, production as a whole has been on too small a scale to justify, or cause any demand for, the establishment of organised marketing facilities.

A weekly market is held in Road Town on Saturdays.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

General

The livestock industry has for many years been the backbone of the economy, the islands being topographically and climatically suited to the cultivation of grass and the production of livestock. In the past few years there has been a marked decrease in livestock production due to the migration of farmers and farm labour to the nearby United States Virgin Islands.

Livestock

Cattle. There has been a gradual decrease in exports—from 724 in 1962 to 650 in 1963 to 612 in 1964. Prices were as follows:

Cattle sold in St. Thomas	18–20 cents per lb. liveweight
Cattle sold in Tortola	15–16 cents per lb. liveweight

Nineteen cases of anaplasmosis were encountered and treated.

Sheep and Goats. The Black Head Persian sheep kept at the Agricultural Station continued to thrive and multiply well. (The Barbados Black Belly ram died in 1963; he has, however, been replaced.) There is a great demand for sheep both locally and for export, and the price is 24 cents per lb. liveweight (local). The Black Belly/Black Head Persian lambs have been outstanding so far. The Anglo-Nubian goats continued to do well and the demand for them is steadily increasing.

Pigs. There has been an increase in pig-raising, but export to St. Thomas has steadily decreased mainly because of the import of frozen pork from the United States of America.

Vaccination against swine fever continued as a preventative measure.

Horses. There have been no exports to the French West Indies during 1964; twelve horses were exported during 1963. Breeding of horses for racing continued on a somewhat limited scale and the demand for riding horses has decreased, due to the opening up of motor roads in the colony.

The thoroughbred stallion kept at the Agricultural Station maintained excellent condition, and his foals so far can be said to be promising.

Poultry. The number of poultry farms increased during the period under review, and there are now six farms in operation. The production of eggs has been adequate to meet local requirements, but only one farm was engaged in broiler production. Poultry farmers

have been encouraged to give more consideration to the production of meat.

Marketing. While there is no marketing organisation, the Department of Agriculture provides inspection and weighing services. Purchases of livestock are made by a local trader who is in touch with the St. Thomas butchers.

Efforts to Improve Production

Breeding Programme. The Department of Agriculture owns and operates a Stock Farm at Road Town, Tortola, and produces grade-cattle, pure-bred sheep, goats and pigs for sale to farmers for stud and breeding purposes. Sales in 1963-64 were as follows:

	1963	1964
Cattle	2	3
Sheep	2	6
Goats	2	2
Pigs	1	—

Pasture Management. Low rainfall was a limiting factor to the establishment of new pastures and this is reflected in the decrease of grass distributed from the nursery at the Agricultural Station. In 1963 pastures did not deteriorate badly despite weather conditions, but in 1964 severe drought conditions forced farmers in most areas to overgraze pastures. Supplementary feed was given to animals as a means of keeping them alive.

Agricultural Credit. The Agricultural Credit and Pasture Improvement Schemes continue to be of considerable benefit to farmers. During the period under review the following loans were issued by the Department of Agriculture:

1963	25 loans totalling \$8,210
1964	19 loans totalling \$4,930

Loans are issued against land or house as security. For the purpose of obtaining a loan land is valued at \$60 per acre, and a farmer may borrow up to the equivalent of two-thirds of the value of the land, the maximum amount of any loan being \$1,000. The nominal value of the land is being reviewed, with a view to enabling farmers to obtain larger loans.

FORESTRY

The Virgin Forest at Mt. Sage was maintained. During 1963 mahogany seeds were imported from St. Croix and British Honduras. The seeds from St. Croix produced 3,264 seedlings which were planted at Mt. Sage. The seeds from British Honduras were sown later, but

could not be transplanted because of low rainfall. During 1964 two thousand mixed mahogany seedlings were imported from St. Croix and an additional nine thousand were produced in the nursery at Mt. Sage. All of these were transferred to the young tree plantation at Mt. Sage. Due to severe drought during 1964 the mortality rate may be very high especially in the areas facing the prevailing wind.

FISHING

Fishing Areas and Methods of Fishing

Fishing activities are conducted mainly within the coastal areas. The chief fishing centres in descending order of importance are Anegada, Peter and Salt Islands, West End (Tortola) and Jost Van Dyke.

The principal methods of catching fish are by fish traps, line fishing and seines. There are also many off-shore banks which could be exploited by using deep-sea methods. The typical fishing boat is a fore and aft rigged sloop about 18–24 feet overall, sometimes with a live water tank, mostly powered by diesel inboard engines. Smaller boats are also used about 12–18 feet overall and powered by out-board engines.

Marketing

Almost the entire catch is marketed direct to the consumer by the boats. Catches are also taken to St. Thomas by the fishermen or delivered at sea by fishing boats to the commercial launches on their way to St. Thomas for marketing. The price of fish was 20–25 cents per lb. (local) and 30–35 cents per lb. in St. Thomas.

Statistics

The recorded value of exports of fresh fish (which is most likely to be under-estimated) over the past four years has been as follows:

1961	.	.	.	.	.	\$13,257.50
1962	.	.	.	.	.	\$16,616.70
1963	.	.	.	.	.	\$20,109.55
1964	.	.	.	.	.	\$11,322.00

The industry is assisted through the Fisheries Credit Fund under which loans are given to fishermen for purchasing fishing gear and engines.

During the period under review the number of loans issued was:

1963	.	.	.	4 loans totalling \$1,780
1964	.	.	.	13 loans totalling \$4,240

MINING

Copper indications are common in the colony, there being scarcely a cay on which some malachite strains cannot be found. Mineralisation is most prominent on the island of Virgin Gorda where copper ores, including native copper, were raised from an old mine last operated in 1867. The copper is accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenite. This mine was investigated for copper and molybdenum by a private mining concern and a 40-inch vein of molybdenum was found. A lease to prospect has now expired and consideration is being given to other applications. Minerals Vesting legislation and legislation controlling the prospecting, mining and export of radioactive minerals are in force in the colony.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Manufacturing is limited and consists of seven rum distilleries all of which are situated on the island of Tortola; 15 plants making hollow concrete blocks of which three are situated at Carrot Bay, four in Road Town, four in Long Look/East End, one in Duff's Bottom, Tortola, and three at Virgin Gorda; two aerated water factories, and two commercial and one Government-owned stone-crushing plants. The Government owns an ice plant which is capable of producing two tons of ice a day, but only on rare occasions has there been a demand for the maximum output. Straw and basket work on a cottage industry basis continues to benefit many people.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

For many years the Secretary to Government had fulfilled a dual role, acting also as Officer in Charge of Education. The steadily increasing administrative duties consequent upon the development of the islands led the Government to consider the re-establishment of an Education Department, as recommended by the Chief Education Officer, Barbados, who was invited to report on educational administration in the territory in 1963. The Department was re-established in January 1964 and housed in separate offices from August, a Superintendent was appointed to begin duties in January 1965 and "Community Education" was integrated into the "Com-

munity Development " Service which was established as a division of the Administration in August 1964. The Library Service continues as part of the Education Department.

Primary Education

Buildings. The opening of a new Government School at Meyers in 1963 relieved, in some measure, the congestion at Cane Garden Bay. As, however, two small Community Schools in the area closed down, the new school was soon filled to capacity.

Co-operative effort led to the construction of a new Anglican School, St. Mary's, at the Valley, Virgin Gorda. The spacious structure, completed late in 1963, was equipped with furniture and officially opened early in 1964. In the same year a block of four post-primary classrooms, built by the Government as an addition to East End School, allowed the increasing school population of more than 400 to be accommodated in greater comfort on the one site.

Accommodation problems remain acute in primary schools, particularly where infant groups are large.

The following table shows the total school enrolment during the period under review:

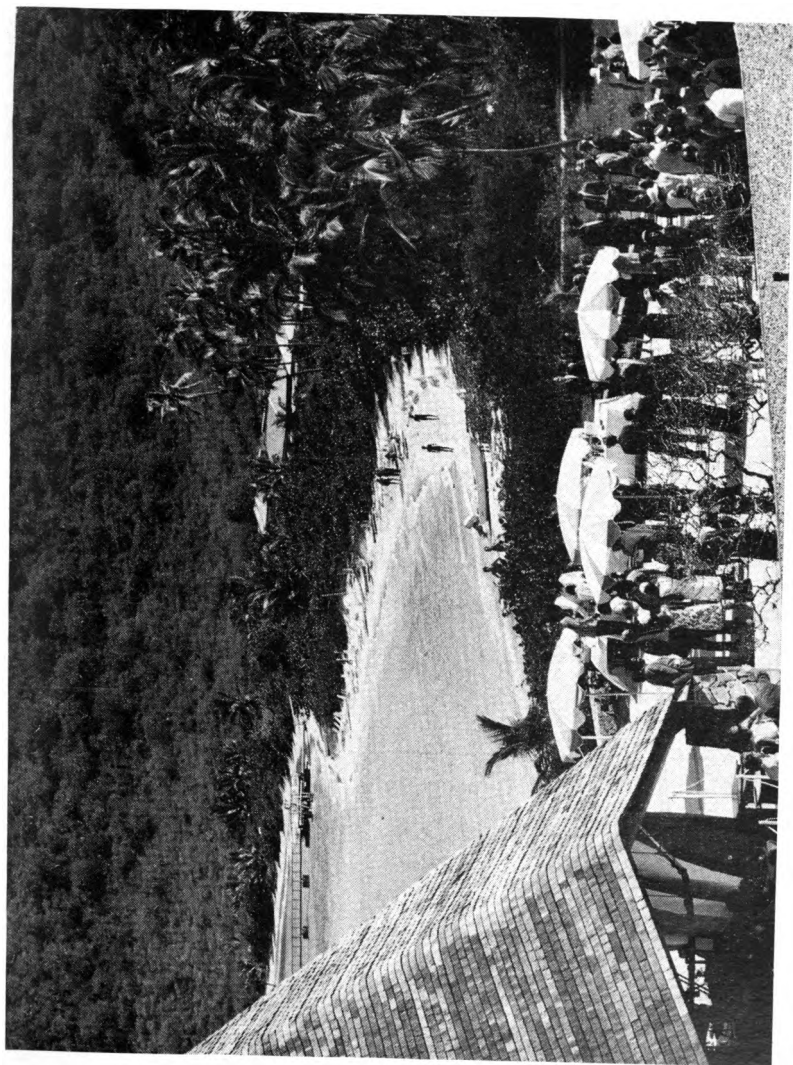
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Post Primary</i>	<i>Total</i>
1963	1,953	371	2,324
1964	1,959	419	2,378

Secondary Education

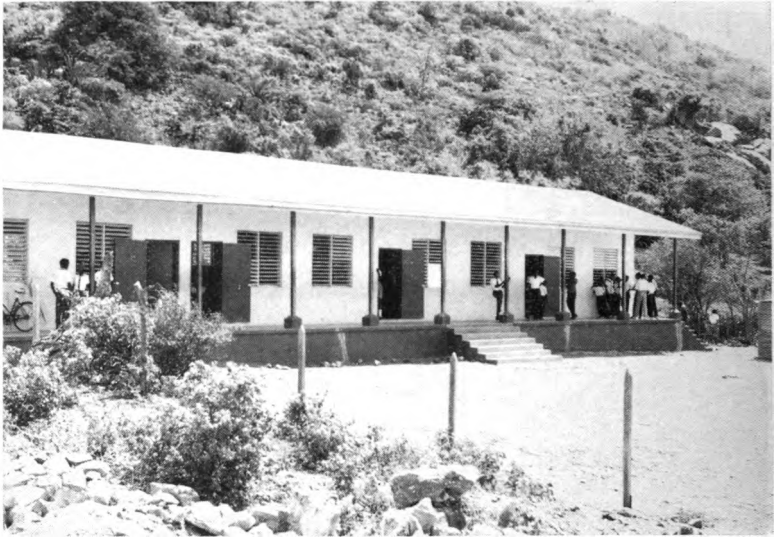
The place of the Secondary School in the system was the subject of a comprehensive report tendered to the Government by a Principal Education Officer from the Ministry of Education, Jamaica, after an inspection visit in May 1963. The recommendations are being considered at length by the Board of Education in the light of the needs of the Community.

The staff was augmented by the appointment of a graduate teacher of English in 1964 and the Practical subjects teachers have both attended refresher courses in their own subjects.

Pupils continued to enter for G.C.E. and School Certificate examinations. To simplify the curriculum it was decided in 1964 to concentrate on the Cambridge G.C.E. examination, taken during the summer. Of the twenty-three candidates submitted, seventeen gained certificates.



Opening of Little Dix Bay Hotel, Virgin Gorda.



Major Bay School Extension.



East End Road Town road under construction.



Cattle at Agricultural Exhibition, Virgin Gorda.



Reaping of Salt at Salt Island.



Government Launch St. Ursula at Bellamy Cay, Trellis Bay.



Hand-operated ferry between Beef Island and Tortola, with Police Force Land Rover: a bridge is being built here.

Transport difficulties, inherent in the organisation of Higher Education in a dispersed group of islands, reduce the potential intake of the school and the disparity in proportions of boys and girls qualifying for entry aggravates the problem of arranging a curriculum, but the steady supply of candidates for administrative and executive posts in the community justifies extension of Secondary Education facilities.

The first entrants from the territory to the University of the West Indies were admitted during 1963, and two are now successfully engaged in their studies, in medicine and engineering respectively.

Teachers

The basis of classification of teachers was reviewed in 1964. The new classification emphasizes professional status and is summarized below showing the number in each category up to the end of 1964:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Graduate Teachers	4	1	5
Head Teachers Primary Schools	4	8	12
Specialist Teachers	1	2	3
Senior Assistant Teachers	—	2	2
Assistant Teachers	1	8	9
Supplementary Teachers	7	43	50
TOTALS	17	64	81

Thirty-three and a third per cent of the teachers are trained including two of the graduates in the Secondary School.

During the period under review one head teacher successfully completed the Professional Certificate of Education course at the University of the West Indies, a second a refresher course at Erdiston, Barbados. Five assistant teachers were successful in the one and two-year training courses at the Leeward Islands Teacher Training College, Antigua; three others began courses there in September 1964. Two other head teachers are studying in Institutes of Education in English Universities, on Commonwealth Bursaries.

Courses on infant teaching and the teaching of arithmetic were held in 1963 by a member of Barbados Education Department and the Extra-Mural Tutor of the University of the West Indies respectively.

An In-Service Course of Study, leading to the Teachers' Certificate of the University of the West Indies Institute of Education, was begun late in 1963, thirteen young teachers being enrolled; the course continues. An Induction Course for young teachers recently recruited to the service was held in the Autumn of 1964 and will be continued.

A disturbingly rapid turn-over of teachers aggravates the problem of staffing schools adequately. The lack of older and more experienced head and assistant teachers deprives the high proportion of youngsters entering the service of the constant help, advice and example which they require.

Further Education

The Library Services which remain a part of the Education Department continue to give good service. At the end of 1964 there were 12,680 books in the Library and 1,763 registered borrowers. This number does not include a generous gift of 1,904 books presented to the colony by the Ranfurly Library Committee of the English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth.

Adult classes in academic subjects were successfully opened under the aegis of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of the West Indies. The Department also sponsored a successful performance of plays, songs and sonnets as the colony's contribution to the world-wide observance of the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare.

Higher Education

For the first time Virgin Islanders were admitted for undergraduate studies at the University of the West Indies with the award in 1963 of two scholarships in Agriculture and Civil Engineering under the auspices of the Caribbean Organization. A third student entered privately to read Medicine. At the end of 1964 the scholarship in Agriculture was unfortunately surrendered.

The Caribbean Organization awarded two further scholarships both tenable at universities in Puerto Rico. One leading to a degree in Economics was awarded to a senior civil servant in 1963 and the other in Civil Engineering to a school-leaver in 1964.

General

New and modern school buildings and furniture, a great supply of books and equipment, and more and better trained teachers are urgently necessary if education is to play the part it should in the development of the colony.

The cost of education for 1963-64 was as follows:

		1963	1964
		US \$	US \$
Primary Education . . .		101,814	99,179
Secondary Education . . .		26,075	30,608
Community Education . . .		8,413	—

	1963 US \$	1964 US \$
Library Services	—	4,567
Other Education	7,041	—
Administrative	5,424	3,685
Teacher Training	3,898	4,031
Non-recurrent	2,600	14,600
	<u>155,265</u>	<u>156,670</u>

Legislation foreshadowed in the last Report was not enacted. On further consideration it was proposed to repeal the present legislation and introduce new legislation which would provide a legal basis for the functioning of a Department of Education bringing all the branches of the Education Service under a unified control, recognize the classification of teachers recently introduced, and seek to give a new Board of Education a more vital role in the framing of educational policy.

PUBLIC HEALTH

General Health

There were small outbreaks of mumps and measles and late in 1963 dengue made its appearance. Diarrhoeal and amoebic diseases and infestation by helminths continue as before and a change in the condition will depend on improved sanitation. The appointment on secondment of a trained public health inspector has led to some progress in this matter and the draft of comprehensive public health legislation was completed at the end of 1964 for submission to the Legislature in 1965.

The general health of the population during the period under review may, however, be said to have been good.

Vital Statistics

At the end of 1964 the population was estimated at 8,619, the last count being in April 1960, when the census was taken. The following table shows births and deaths in the period under review:

	1963	1964
Number of births	264	225
Number of deaths	67	75
Number of deaths under 1 year	20	14
Number of still births	5	7

On the basis of the estimated population for 1963 and 1964 the following figures emerge:

	1963	1964
Crude birth rate per thousand population	32	26
Crude death rate per thousand population	7.9	8.7
Infant mortality rate per thousand births	75.8	62.2
Still birth rate per thousand births .	18.9	31.1

Staff

Staffing of the Medical and Health Department created serious problems for most of the period under review. The medical officer resigned in 1963 and it was impossible to fill the post for over a year. The contract appointment of the superintendent of medical services ended in April 1964. During this period there was for most of the time a single medical officer and numerous *ad hoc* arrangements had to be made to obtain the temporary services of doctors. Fortunately the former medical officer had established himself as a private practitioner. He assisted the Department without remuneration and played a vital role in these difficult times.

A new medical officer was appointed in May 1964 and a superintendent of medical services in August. In addition a post of resident surgeon was approved and efforts are being made to fill it. The medical position was at the end of 1964 better than it has ever been since three medical practitioners (two government and one private) were actually available to the people of the colony.

The position of nurses at the Government Hospital was also improved by the end of 1964 in that all nursing vacancies had been filled by student nurses which gives hope that nurses will become available for the districts and out-islands in the next few years.

The laboratory technician was awarded a W.H.O. Fellowship in 1964 which added to the staffing difficulties.

In spite of these very serious problems the Medical and Health Department continued to function in a way which reflects great credit on the small and already overtaxed staff.

Finance

The total expenditure of the medical and health services was \$79,385 in 1963 and \$93,899 in 1964.

HOUSING

The standard of housing, already good by West Indian standards, continued to improve. The Macnamara housing area at the southern end of Road Town, for which land was made available by Government for construction of houses in the middle income bracket, was almost completed by the end of 1964. There are now a total of 14 houses and a residential area has been created which has made a significant addition to the town.

During 1963 a portion of land at Lower Estate at the northern end of Road Town was also made available for houses for a lower income

bracket than the Macnamara area. Twenty-five house-lots were allocated and by the end of 1964 22 houses had been completed or were in the process of construction.

During the period the Government decided to make a start with town and country planning. Following a preliminary visit by the Director of Town and Country Planning, Barbados, the services of Mr. G. B. Dix from the Building Research Station were obtained for the preparation of draft legislation and plans for certain areas.

Mr. Dix's report is awaited, and it is expected that he will make a second visit in 1965.

The Building Authority continued to function although the need for increased control with regard to planning and building standards is apparent.

A visit and report on building control was made by an officer of the Building Research Station (Mr. Daldy) in 1963.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Community Development as an organized Government service was introduced in the colony for the first time in 1964. The service, which is organized as a section of the Administration, comprises community organization, community education (formerly undertaken by the Education Service), recreation and culture and social welfare. Planning is to be undertaken by a Community Development Committee which will include representatives of Government departments concerned with community development, the churches, the University of the West Indies Extra-Mural Department and private citizens who will act as the liaison between the committee and various community groups. A civil servant who completed a course in Community Development at the University of London Institute of Education during 1963/64 was appointed Community Development Officer with the responsibility for the execution of the programme, co-ordinating the activities of the participating units and pooling their resources at the administrative level and at the field level for helping people learn how to work together in an effort to solve their problems. A Voluntary Service Overseas cadet was attached to the service to assist chiefly with sports.

By the end of 1964 two communities had organized Community Associations and two others were considering organization early in 1965.

The Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade, Junior Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to function. Life Boys' and Girls' Life Brigades were established during the period. The opening of a

joint headquarters for the British Red Cross Society and the Girl Guides Association was a great step forward for these organizations.

The Cricket Association was revived and an annual competition held in 1963 and 1964. A Soft Ball League and Womens' Athletic Association were organized. The League organized a competition following the cricket season. Both men and women played matches against teams in Tortola as well as St. Thomas and St. Croix. The Community Development Service introduced boys in the Road Town School to soccer.

An almshouse at the Valley, Virgin Gorda, was completed by co-operative effort and put into use. The Public Assistance Committee, a statutory body, remains the chief welfare organization. Church organizations continued to play their part.

Chapter 8: Legislation

SEVENTEEN Ordinances were passed by the Legislature in 1963 and ten in 1964. Statutory Rules and Orders made amounted to 26 in 1963 and 21 in 1964.

1963

Of the Ordinances passed in 1963 the most important were:

- (a) The Trade Licences Ordinance which provided for the issue of licences to persons engaged in trade and commerce, travelling agents and pedlars, and for purposes connected therewith.
- (b) The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance which made provision for the reduction of the rate of Company Tax to 12 per cent in keeping with the recommendations contained in Dr. O'Loughlin's Report on the Economic Potential, Fiscal Structure and Capital Requirements of the Colony.
- (c) The Customs Surcharge Ordinance which made provision for an increase in the rate of customs surcharge from 2 to 5 per centum.
- (d) The Passengers Tax (Amendment) Ordinance which increased the passenger tax from 25 cents (U.S.) to 30 cents (U.S.) in respect of persons leaving the colony by aircraft.

- (e) The Restriction of Offensive Weapons Ordinance which prohibited the making, keeping, disposing and importation of "Flick Knives" and certain other dangerous weapons.
- (f) The Companies Act (Amendment) Ordinance. The Companies Act, Cap. 140, made no provision for:
 - (i) the issue of redeemable preference shares;
 - (ii) the registration of companies incorporated outside the colony;
 - (iii) the forwarding to the Registrar by companies (whether incorporated locally or otherwise) of such further details as have become the practice under United Kingdom legislation.

The Ordinance remedied those defects and its provisions also included a requirement for public companies to submit a balance sheet to the Registrar.

- (g) The Commissions of Inquiry Act (Amendment) Ordinance which made provision for:
 - (i) the representation of persons concerned in inquiries by counsel;
 - (ii) the reception of evidence by affidavit and the administering of interrogatories by commissioners; and
 - (iii) the privileges of witnesses giving evidence.
- (h) The Jury Act (Amendment) Ordinance which made women eligible for jury service.
- (i) The Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance which altered currency expressed in the Stamp Act (Cap. 135) from sterling to that of the United States of America and revised some of the rates of stamp duty payable under the Stamp Act.
- (j) The Burial Grounds (Amendment) Ordinance which:
 - (i) prohibited the burial of dead human bodies in any area of the colony to which the provisions of the Burial Grounds Ordinance 1960 apply, save in a licensed burial ground;
 - (ii) widened the scope of the Regulations that may be made under the provisions of the Ordinance;
 - (iii) authorised cremations; and
 - (iv) authorised the closure of licensed burial grounds.

1964

The most important Ordinances passed in 1964 were:

- (a) The Facilities for Title Ordinance. The object of this Ordinance was to facilitate proof of and to perfect title to land in cases of loans made for approved purposes and by approved lending agencies on the security of land and to protect such security with a view to encouraging development, and for purposes incidental thereto and connected therewith.
- (b) The Liquor Licences Ordinance which increased the type of licences that may be granted in an endeavour to bring the law more in line with present day requirements. Special provisions have been made for small spirit dealers. There is also a revision of the rates to be paid in respect of each type of licence with a view to securing an increase in revenue.
- (c) The Protection of Wages Ordinance which made provision for the protection of the wages of workers employed annually or in the catering trades, and also the wages of persons employed to do clerical work in connection with these trades.

Subsidiary Legislation

The most important Statutory Rules and Orders made were:

- (a) The Colonial Air Navigation (Use of Government Aerodromes) Notification 1963.
- (b) The Colonial Air Navigation (Use of Government Aerodromes) (No. 2) Notification 1963.
- (c) The Protected Beaches Order 1963.
- (d) Proclamation Appointing the Date for Holding a General Election.
- (e) The Stamp Act (Operation) Order 1963.
- (f) Proclamation dated 18th October 1963, bringing the Register of Voters into force under Section 49(3) of the Virgin Islands Constitution and Election Ordinance 1954.
- (g) The Police (Amendment) Regulations 1963.
- (h) The Customs Duties (Drawback) Regulations 1964.
- (i) The National Parks Orders 1964.
- (j) The Virgin Gorda Prescribed Area Order 1964.

- (k) Proclamation dated 10th September 1964, bringing into operation the Facilities for Title Ordinance 1964.
- (l) Resolution of the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands dated 17th November 1964, made under section 18A of the Customs Duties Ordinance 1927 as amended.
- (m) The Foot and Mouth Disease Regulations 1964.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the colony by the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of statute law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Acts 1948 and 1964 and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the colonial territories and therefore extend to the colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the colony.

From the 1st January 1950 the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, was created for the colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands (now the colonies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands). The Court is presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. The Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction has the power to hear and determine all matters that are heard and determined in England by the High Court of Justice.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed £175 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £250.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands against convictions on indictment and in certain

civil matters. There is a right of appeal to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance, and by leave, from any interlocutory order made in the court of any proceedings.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of £75 in contract and £37.10.0 in tort. The colony is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61 of the Leeward Islands Act as adapted for use in the Virgin Islands by the Adaptation of Laws Regulations 1956). Appeals from decisions of the Magistrate lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands and appeals against the decision of that Court may be made to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal. The Crown Attorney is also the Magistrate.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases heard by all courts are given in the table below:

	<i>Supreme Court</i>		<i>Summary Court</i>		<i>Magistrate's Court</i>		<i>All Courts</i>	
	1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964
Civil cases	14	10	4	1	24	47		
Criminal offences charged	9	4	—	—	368	330		
Accused persons . . .	9	4	—	—	368	330		
Convictions	6	2	—	—	238	202		
Acquittals	3	2	—	—	60	72		
Charges withdrawn .	—	—	—	—	64	22		
<i>Juveniles:</i>								
Charged							21	27
Acquitted							1	2
Convicted							10	14
<i>Summary Punishments:</i>								
Imprisonments . . .							26	17
Fines							150	125
Otherwise disposed of .							68	62

POLICE

The Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Force which is under the command of a Superintendent with headquarters in Antigua, is for administrative purposes divided into three Divisions, the Virgin Islands Division "C" under the immediate command of an Inspector.

The following table shows force strength and stations at the end of 1964:

	<i>Inspector</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>Corporals</i>	<i>Constables</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Tortola</i>					
Road Town .	1	1	1	7	10
East End .	—	—	1	—	1
<i>Virgin Gorda</i>					
Valley .	—	—	1	1	2
Little Dix Bay .	—	—	1	5	6
TOTAL .	1	1	4	13	19

The station at Little Dix Bay resort was established in December 1964, at the request of Mr. Laurence Rockefeller under new provisions of the Police Act whereby an individual can pay for the services of policemen who, however, remain under the sole control of the Inspector.

Thirty local constables receive a small monthly retainer and are paid for periods of active duty assisting the regular Police Force.

The police are, in addition to normal duties, responsible for the Immigration Service (the Inspector being Chief Immigration Officer) and for road traffic in all its aspects.

Fire Service

The police personnel of the Division together with eight volunteer firemen from the Fire Fighting Service of the colony.

In June 1964 the Chief Fire Officer, Barbados, visited the colony to advise on the organization and requirements of the fire fighting service. The report which dealt with staff needs, both permanent and voluntary, training and equipment has been accepted by Government and steps are being taken to implement it over a period as the financial implications are considerable. There were two small fires in 1964 but outside of Road Town, and consideration has been given in the report to the needs of the country areas of Tortola.

Crime

The following tables give the details of crime during the period under review:

**TOTAL CRIMES AND OFFENCES DEALT WITH
BY THE POLICE**

		<i>True Reports</i>	<i>Persons taken to Court</i>	<i>Persons Convicted</i>
1963	. . . . .	263	111	93
1964	. . . . .	193	64	59

TOTAL CONVICTIONS

		<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
Wounding and Assault	. . . . .	19	13
Larcenies	. . . . .	8	12
Animal Theft	. . . . .	—	2
Malicious Damage	. . . . .	1	—
Minor Offences and Contraventions	. . . . .	65	32

PRISON

THE penal administration in the colony is governed by the Prison Ordinance 1954 (No. 12 of 1954) and Regulations made thereunder (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 25 of 1956 and Statutory Rules and Orders No. 31 of 1961).

There is one prison with accommodation for a maximum of 36 prisoners. Under the United Kingdom Prisoners Act 1869, arrangements have been made for the removal of prisoners from the Virgin Islands to the colony of Antigua when necessary.

The Inspector of Police is also Officer in Charge of the Prison with an assistant appointed from among the police personnel. There is one warder and provision is made for the appointment of temporary warders and of a matron if occasion demands.

A Visiting Committee of Justices of the Peace continued to function during the period under review.

Prisoners received were as follows:

		<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
Convicted	. . . . .	20	9
Remanded	. . . . .	6	8

Prisoners committed to prison for a period exceeding one month continued to be discharged after serving two-thirds of their sentences provided their conduct and industry were good. Prisoners were employed on general labour inside the prison and cleaning in various Government Departments.

No juveniles were imprisoned and no corporal punishment inflicted.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY was supplied to Road Town and its immediate environs on a 24-hour basis by three 60 kW, three-phase 110 volt A.C. diesel generators up to March 1963, and on the basis of proposals submitted by the Regional Engineer of the Commonwealth Development Corporation an additional 235 kW set was installed in April 1964 to cope with the additional load demand as the first stage of a planned extension reaching eventually to East End. The number of consumers rose from 467 at the end of 1963 to 507 at the end of 1964. The current electricity rates per unit of 1 kW. remain as follows:

Domestic Rates	15 cents per unit for the first 20 units. 9 cents per unit for the next 30 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 50.
Commercial Rates	9 cents per unit for the first 400 units. 7 cents per unit for units in excess of 400.

The system has been extended to include the inhabited areas fringing Road Harbour as far as Burt Point to the west and Fish Bay to the east. It is hoped to extend the service to East End/Long Look as soon as possible.

ICE AND COLD STORAGE

Two thousand two hundred and forty pounds of ice can be produced daily from the ice plant which has been in operation since 1959, and an ice store with a capacity of 504 cubic feet ensures an adequate supply of ice at all times. Ice is sold daily at the plant at the rate of \$1.40 a block of 56 pounds or \$1.12 a block in lots of 560 pounds or more. In addition, three cold storage rooms with a total capacity of 980 cubic feet are available to the public for renting on a monthly basis.

WATER SUPPLIES

The public water supply of the colony may be classified as follows:

- (a) *The Road Town Water Supply.* The population of Road Town is served by (i) a pipe-borne water system with its source in the upper reaches of Long Bush Ghut;

- (ii) numerous shallow wells; and (iii) rainwater collected from the roofs of cisterns and stored in concrete cisterns. The pipeborne system was augmented by the installation of a Sumo submersible pump in a suitable shallow well in 1961 and another in 1963, resulting in an uninterrupted supply of running water in Road Town.
- (b) *The Country and Out Islands Water Supply.* A programme of improvement of numerous water points has been carried out during the past few years including the construction of cisterns, spring boxes and the re-opening and sinking of wells in strategic locations. Householders, however, continue to depend mainly on stored rain water for consumption and domestic purposes, and the cistern loans continue to be of great assistance in providing water. \$5,200 was made available in this way during 1964.

The provision of adequate supplying of water for human needs and livestock still remains a problem particularly during years of drought, 1964 being one of the worst years of the century.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department carried out building construction and maintenance works totalling \$108,047 and \$85,914 and road construction and maintenance work totalling \$153,201 and \$222,771 in 1963 and 1964 respectively. A contract in the sum of \$850,360 for the construction of a bridge to link Beef Island (and the airport) to Tortola and the building of 13 miles of road between Road Town and West End, was awarded to Paulings (Caribbean) Ltd. in December 1964.

During the period under review additional equipment was obtained by the Department and since April 1963 a qualified civil engineer was again available as head of department. Consideration is being given to an increase of the technical personnel.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

ROAD TOWN, the capital of the colony, is the only full port of entry but customs facilities are available at other ports. At the port of West End, Tortola, British or foreign vessels can obtain clearance

outwards to any destination. Boats registered or licensed in the colony, and foreign boats whose last port of call is the Virgin Islands of the United States or Puerto Rico, can obtain customs entry inwards. The same facilities exist at Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke, and in addition a British or foreign pleasure yacht or passenger vessel whose last port of call was the United States Virgin Islands may make customs entry inwards. At St. Thomas Bay, Virgin Gorda, customs clearance outwards is the same as at the other ports but only passenger boats operating on behalf of the Little Dix Bay Resort may make customs entry inwards.

There is still no direct steamship communication with the outside world. Freight must pass in transit through St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and is brought into the colony by sloop and schooner.

Three motor boats operate a scheduled daily passenger service between St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and Road Town, Tortola. This is an hour and a half's journey along a scenic water highway.

A weekly motor boat service is maintained between Tortola and Virgin Gorda. Transport between Tortola and the other islands is normally by sloops, some having engines, but charter trips by motor boat can be arranged.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

The motorable road systems on Tortola continued to expand as rapidly as funds permitted. Access to the settlement on the north-western coast of Tortola is now possible by a second route, the road across Tortola from Road Town to Cane Garden Bay having been made motorable for four-wheel drive vehicles. It is expected that this road will be surfaced as a part of the 1965 road programme. The coastal road from Road Town to East End was being surfaced and was nearly completed at the end of 1964.

Up to the end of 1963 there were 229 registered motor vehicles and 438 bicycles. At the end of 1964 there were 336 motor vehicles and 578 bicycles.

Development on the out-islands, especially Virgin Gorda, has given rise to serious consideration of a road building programme. This can, however, only materialize when funds become available.

CIVIL AVIATION

Access to the airfield at Beef Island was still gained by a manually operated ferry capable of accommodating motor vehicles. The run-

way is now 2,000 feet long, an additional 200 feet having been made in 1964.

There is still no scheduled air service from the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico but charter flights continued to operate at a greatly increased rate—an average in excess of 20 flights a day. Leeward Islands Air Transport maintained a scheduled service from St. Kitts on Saturdays by a twin engined Bonanza. A charter sea plane service was in operation during part of 1964 between St. Thomas and Road Town. Landings totalled 1,353 with 3,186 passengers in 1963 and 3,456 with 8,500 passengers in 1964.

The Government entered into an agreement with Mr. L. S. Rockefeller for the construction of an airstrip at Virgin Gorda which will be leased by the Government under the terms of the agreement on its completion. Work was substantially advanced by the end of 1964.

The Director of Civil Aviation for the Windward and Leeward Islands continues to advise the Government on aviation matters. With the growth of air traffic it is obvious that aviation services will become necessary and two local officers were undertaking a course in Air Traffic Control in Trinidad at the end of 1964.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The internal radio-telephone system with voice stations in Road Town and West End, Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Anegada, Beef Island and the Valley, Virgin Gorda, have been replaced by Marine Ship-to-Shore radio sets which are giving satisfactory service, but it has not yet been possible to extend the system as was proposed.

Agreement in principle has been reached between the Government and Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for the laying of a 80-channel coastal telephone cable between Bermuda and Tortola, the provision of a tropospheric link with Antigua and a microwave connection from Tortola to St. Thomas, and for the installation of a modern automatic telephone system within the colony, including out-islands. When implemented the proposals will make Tortola an important point on the trunk route from North to South America and when the new internal system is installed the British Virgin Islands will enjoy first class communication internally and with all parts of the world.

POSTAL SERVICES

The postal administration continued to function as a separate department of the Government, with the Treasurer carrying out the

duties of postmaster. The General Post Office is in Road Town and there are sub-post offices at West End and East End (Tortola) and on Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Mails are received and despatched daily, except Sundays. All mail, except surface mail for territories in the Eastern Caribbean, is routed through the United States Virgin Islands, which receives and despatches air mail daily.

The postal services continued to provide a lucrative source of Government revenue through the sale of postage stamps.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

PRESS

THE *Island Sun* continued to be published weekly during the period under review.

BROADCASTING

There was no broadcasting station in the colony, but an agreement was concluded with Mr. William Greer for the erection of a 250W station near Road Town early in 1965.

FILMS

There is no local film production or distribution. A commercial cinema in Road Town shows up to date 16mm. films three nights a week. British newsreels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Service.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

The Government issues a weekly news-sheet *Information* to the press as well as members of the public requesting it. Fact Sheets on the colony are also available to persons desiring information about the colony, and were widely distributed in response to increasingly numerous enquiries.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, contain over 40 British islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution the islands fall into four groups. To the south with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow, three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands except Anegada rise precipitously

from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil, limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably among the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a pleasant sub-tropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87° F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67° F. Sea breezes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10° F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes—mainly *Croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the

coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of a most interesting and unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola.

Being of great scientific interest this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small but increasing number (at the end of 1963 estimated at 125) of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20 per cent of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the colony and its environs. A slightly higher percentage live in East End/Long Look the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Two of these, Guana Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts. There are no statistics showing population trends on the out-islands but such evidence as exists points to a decrease in Anegada and Jost Van Dyke and an increase in Virgin Gorda where tourist resort facilities have been established.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources, and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the colony. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported to St. Thomas, United States Virgin

Islands. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a thriving livestock industry—a first-class beef breed, the Nellthrop, having been developed.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income went on relatively unaffected by the outside world, but the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the colony can never become economically viable with small scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' national charm as a new resource. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various colourful islands to each other and the crystal sea surrounding them, provide a setting that will excite the most demanding world traveller. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a paradise for all saltwater boating and fishing enthusiasts. The unique granite rock formation at the southern tip of Virgin Gorda is truly remarkable and the area known as "The Baths" is quite spectacular in its exciting rugged beauty. The fragment of xerophytic rain forest on Mount Sage has no counterpart in the Lesser Antilles nor in nearby Puerto Rico, and there are beautiful beaches on most of the 40 islands.

The economic outlook, therefore, likely to lead to such measure of solvency as the islands are able to achieve, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption, and considerable progress was made in 1963-64.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications remained a serious drawback in development planning. More and better roads and improved air and sea facilities are prerequisite to expansion of both tourism and agriculture.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgines in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595 when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lb. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of two official and three nominated unofficial members was sub-

stituted. This form of Government was abrogated in 1902 when the Governor-in-Council became the sole legislative authority. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was again granted to the islands in 1950.

On the 1st July 1956 the Leeward Islands Council was de-federated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a colony.

Following are some of the important dates in the colony's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1871 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature re-constituted.
- 1956 De-federation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December 1959 and the Administrator became The Queen's Representative.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on the 1st July 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I., No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2, chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) separate colonies.

The Administrator, The Queen's personal representative in the colony, is advised by an Executive Council constituted by the Virgin Islands Letters Patent and Royal Instructions, 1959. It consists of the Administrator, two official members, one member nominated by the Administrator from among the nominated members of the Legislative Council and two elected members, elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. Up to November 1963 the Executive Council was constituted as follows:

<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. H. O. Creque (Acting Treasurer)
<i>Nominated Member</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (Member for Trade and Production) Hon. H. L. Stoutt (Member for Public Works and Communications)

The Legislative Council was constituted as follows for the same period:

<i>President</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. H. O. Creque (Acting Treasurer)
<i>Nominated Members</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P. Hon. J. R. O'Neal, M.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Hon. I. Dawson (Member, Tortola North) Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E. (1st Member, Tortola Central) Hon. I. G. Fonseca, J.P. (2nd Member, Tortola Central)

Hon. L. F. Malone (Member, Tortola East)
 Hon. H. L. Stoutt (Member, Tortola West
 and Jost Van Dyke)
 Hon. T. H. Faulkner (Member, Virgin
 Gorda and Anegada)

General Elections were held in November 1963 and thereafter the Legislative Council was constituted as follows:

<i>President</i>	The Administrator
<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. N. E. A. Harrigan (Secretary to Government)
<i>Nominated Members</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P. Hon. J. R. O'Neal, M.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Hon. H. L. Stoutt (Member, Tortola West and Jost Van Dyke) Hon. I. G. Fonseca, J.P. (1st Member, Tortola Central) Hon. A. Scatliffe (2nd Member, Tortola Central) Hon. I. Dawson (Member, Tortola North) Hon. Dr. Q. W. Osborne (Member, Anegada and Virgin Gorda) Hon. T. B. Lettsome (Member, Tortola, East)

The Executive Council was constituted as follows:

<i>Official Members</i>	Hon. J. D. B. Renwick (Crown Attorney) Hon. N. E. A. Harrigan, M.B.E., J.P. (Secretary to Government)
<i>Nominated Member</i>	Hon. J. O. Georges, O.B.E., J.P.
<i>Elected Members</i>	Hon. H. L. Stoutt (Member for Public Works and Communications) Hon. Dr. Q. W. Osborne (Member for Trade and Production)

Dr. Q. W. Osborne resigned from the Council in October 1964 and was succeeded by Hon. I. Dawson.

Mr. L. I. Austin, Acting Crown Attorney, was a temporary Member from March to June 1964.

General Elections.

By proclamation dated 26th September 1963 the Legislative Council was dissolved on 14th October 1963. Writs of Election were

issued on 2nd November 1963 and 13 candidates were nominated to contest six seats in five electoral districts. Elections took place on 28th November. Of 3,770 registered voters 2,116 or 57.4 per cent cast their ballots, the highest poll since the first General Elections were held in 1950 when 67.3 per cent of the electorate voted.

Local Government.

There was no local Government organization in the colony, and enquiries made in 1964 indicated little or no interest in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

HANDBOOKS AND GUIDEBOOKS

FISHLOCK, W. C. *Handbook of the Virgin Islands*. 1912.

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- EGGLESTON, GEORGE T. *Virgin Islands*, Princeton, D. Van Nostrand, 1959.
- HOLDRIDGE, DESMOND. *Escape to the Tropics*. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1937.
- SCOTT, PETER & PHILLIPA. *Far Away Look II*. Cassell, 1960.
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NOVELS

- LEVO, JOHN. *The Hurricane*. Hutchinson, 1930.
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- WHITE, ROBB. *Our Virgin Island*. Gollancz. 1953.

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- Report of the Land Use Survey Team, 1960* (obtainable from Administrator's Office, B.V.I.)
- A Survey of the Economic Potential, Fiscal Structure and Capital Requirements of the British Virgin Islands*, by Dr. Carleen O'Loughlin, 1962.
- University of the West Indies, Jamaica* (obtainable from Administrator's Office, B.V.I.)
- Report of the Development Advisory Committee relating to the period 1963-1966*. (obtainable from Administrator's Office, B.V.I.)

APPENDIX

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.63	Expenditure to 31.12.64	Remarks
D.1933 & A & B	East End Road	\$ 83,022.80	\$ 82,909.93	\$ 83,008.70	
D.1941	Public Works Temporary Staff	18,200.00	16,495.43	16,495.43	
D.2118 & A & B & C	Water Supply, Road Town	43,313.20	40,240.93	42,791.28	
D.2651(40)	Road Development (Communications)	428.40	360.72	360.72	
D.2717(42)	Pilot Project, Production of Green Vegetables	1,400.00	1,121.99	1,121.99	
D.2760	Purchase of Agricultural Machinery	7,980.00	7,477.26	7,477.26	
D.2788 & A & B	Grass Land Production	15,341.20	14,569.91	14,569.91	
D.2794 & A	Stock Farm	115,309.60	62,411.84	64,036.82	
D.3035 & A & B & C	Beef Island Airstrip	46,790.80	38,304.85	41,625.81	
D.3135 & A	Sea Cow Bay/West End/Baughers Bay/Belle Vue Road	28,000.00	58,533.34	66,675.48	
D.3384	Public Works Temporary Staff	28,826.00	23,965.01	23,965.01	
D.3569 & A	Country Water Supplies	22,400.00	22,022.35	22,306.92	
D.3573	Forestry Development	5,600.00	3,243.68	3,988.19	
D.3592	Town Planning	924.00	502.41	502.41	
D.3678	Ferry Beef Island	3,080.00	—	—	
D.3736(40)	Caribbean Vocational Training Scheme	22.80	22.50	22.50	
D.3757	Purchase of Site for Market	5,600.00	5,496.82	5,496.82	
D.3806	Construction of Health Clinic at the Sound, Virgin Gorda	8,400.00	27.91	5,556.75	
D.3831 & A	Road Development Out Islands	19,600.00	10,569.91	10,569.91	
D.3964	Meyers School	12,600.00	11,559.40	12,819.40	
D.3968 & A	Aedes Aegypti Eradication Campaign	18,062.80	13,728.68	17,436.92	
D.4037 & A	Causeway between Frenchman's Cay and Tortola	5,600.00	5,552.06	5,552.06	
D.4139 & A	Training Courses	1,181.60	714.74	714.74	

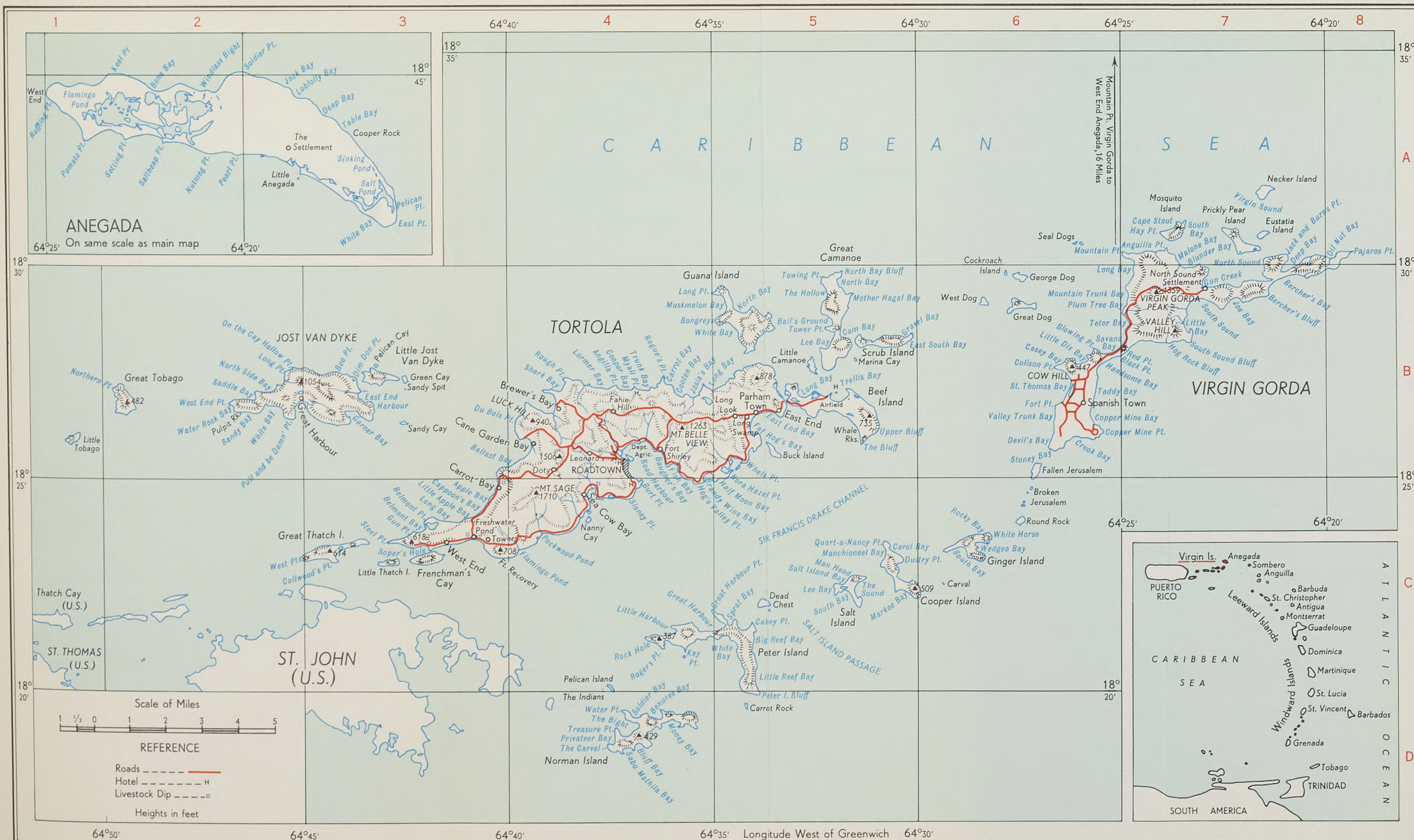
APPENDIX—continued

Serial No. of Scheme	Description	Authorised Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.63	Expenditure to 31.12.64	Remarks
D.4275 & A & B & C	Temporary Additional Staff for Public Works Dept.	\$ 85,990.80	\$ 66,214.56	\$ 82,195.54	
D.4506	Improvement of Road between Road Town and Baughers Bay, Tortola	48,199.20	48,182.93	48,182.93	
D.4536	Purchase of Redifon Telephone	1,456.00	1,422.19	1,422.19	
D.4602	Construction of Road from Huntums Ghut to Great Mountain	14,000.00	10,306.69	12,893.88	
D.4603	Improvement of Wharf and Harbour Facilities, Road Town	71,719.20	133,650.06	144,974.57	50% of total cost is met from local funds.
D.4801	Temporary Jetty at Road Town	9,601.20	9,566.64	9,566.64	
D.4862 & A	Purchase of Additional Equipment P.W.D.	10,502.80	9,425.65	9,425.65	
D.4922	Purchase of Long Wheel Base Land Rover for Agricultural Department	2,800.00	2,628.23	2,628.23	
D.5265	Printing of Tourist Brochure	2,147.60	—	2,147.60	
D.5505	Provision of Chutes and Dumper for Stone Crushing Plant	3,682.00	—	1,225.76	
D.5615	Construction of a Bridge at Huntums Ghut	10,200.40	—	1,330.99	
D.5631	Training of Civil Servants	6,048.00	—	822.00	
D.4159 & A & B	Secondment of Radio Technician	29,640.80	17,952.49	25,235.73	

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Report for the years
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NOTE: United States currency is used throughout this report except where otherwise stated.

PART I

General Review of 1965–1969

ADMINISTRATION

THE Territory continued to be administered by Mr M. S. Staveley, C.B.E., until April, 1967. After the general elections under the new Constitution which then came into operation, Mr Staveley completed his term of office and was succeeded by Mr J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E., who continued as Administrator of the British Virgin Islands for the remainder of the period under review.

POLITICAL

A Constitutional Conference was held in London in October, 1966, which delegates from among the elected members of the Legislative Council, British Virgin Islands, attended. The Conference unanimously agreed that a new Constitution for the Territory should be introduced in 1967 to provide a ministerial form of government, thus giving more responsibility to the elected representatives of the people. Under the new Constitution, which came into effect in April 1967, the Administrator remained responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and finance, and continued to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Administrator as Chairman, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex-officio* members (the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

A General Election was held on 14th April, 1967. The United Party secured four seats, the Democratic Party two seats and the People's Own Party one seat. The Hon H. L. Stoutt was then

appointed as Chief Minister, the Hon I. Dawson as Minister of Natural Resources and Public Health and the Hon T. B. Lettsome as Minister of Communication, Works and Industry.

INTER-VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

Relations continued to be cordial. There were no meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference during the period under review, but visits were exchanged between the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Administrator of the British Virgin Islands.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of the British Virgin Islands has in the past been closely affected by events in the adjacent United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The continued rapid economic expansion in these territories has in many ways made its impression on the economy of the British Virgin Islands, particularly in drawing away labour and forcing up local wage rates. Until a few years ago the livestock industry was the backbone of the economy, but this has declined in recent years, and tourism has come to be of increasing importance. Substantial efforts are being made to develop this sector of the economy, while agriculture continues to decline. In 1965 it was estimated that some 10% of the total population of the British Virgin Islands was employed on St. Thomas, while the economy of the B.V.I. was dependent on the employment of workers from elsewhere. The high level of wages in St. Thomas thus produces a drain on the manpower of the British Virgin Islands and helps to force wages up in competition. The employment of so many British Virgin Islanders in St. Thomas does however mean that money is sent into the Territory by the way of remittances to relatives. By 1966 the tourist boom in the United States Virgin Islands had not yet reached Tortola. Labour continued to be attracted away from agriculture to daily wage-earning jobs. External communications were assured in 1966 by the completion of the Bermuda/Tortola undersea cable, while improvements to the internal telephone system were begun.

The greater degree of self-government resulting from the introduction of a ministerial system locally elected under the new Constitution in 1967 had the effect of encouraging investment and more British Virgin Islanders tended to seek employment locally instead of finding their way as in years past to the United States. A considerable amount of capital from the United States and Britain was being channelled into the British Virgin Islands by the end of 1967 and a boom in the construction industry got under way. Full employment

became a reality and a stream of immigrants from other West Indian Islands began in 1967 to fill the shortages in the local labour supply. In 1967 banking facilities were further improved by the opening of a third bank, although British Virgin Islanders were slow to take advantage of the provision of credit to expand their businesses and develop their land holdings.

The task of improving the infrastructure of the Territory was tackled with vigour in 1967. Phase I of the Electricity Scheme was completed by the installation of a new generating plant in Road Town, while a start was made before the end of the year in the implementation of Phase II, namely the carrying of electricity to the other inhabited parts of Tortola. The internal telephone system was improved during 1967 and radio telephone communication to the outer Islands was installed.

Early in 1967 the Government signed an agreement with the Development Corporation of Anegada Ltd., which provided for the Corporation to exercise an option to take a lease of a large part of Anegada Island. The Corporation in turn undertook to spend at least 1·5 million dollars within 5 years and 3 million dollars within 10 years from the signing of the lease. It also undertook to provide airport, wharf and other public facilities. Agreement was also reached between the Government and Wickham's Cay Ltd., to reclaim and develop for hotel, commercial and residential purposes part of Road Harbour embracing the small islet of Wickham's Cay. Out of this development a new road was also promised, which would greatly help to relieve traffic congestion in Road Town. This road was constructed and opened to traffic in 1969.

The economy of the British Virgin Islands is estimated to have grown at the rate of 31 % per annum over the period 1966-1968, due to the steady growth of tourism and the considerable growth in construction and related industries. With the exception of agriculture, which has declined, too, other sectors have also grown. Whereas there was only one bank in the Territory in 1963 there were four in 1968 and prospects for more. Government local revenue increased from U.S. dollars 579,015 in 1963 to some U.S. dollars 1,440,000 in 1968. Finally, imports increased from U.S. dollars 2·2 million in 1963 to U.S. dollars 6·6 million in 1968. The Territory's growth rate is said to be the highest in the Caribbean area.

A major reason for this growth rate has been the favourable treatment by the U.K. Government in making aid available to the Territory and allowing sterling investors to avoid dollar premia. Other reasons include the proximity of the British Virgin Islands to the rapidly growing U.S. tourist market, the favourable tax structure

of the Territory and the comparative stability of the political situation. The prognosis is good provided tourism maintains its expansion rate and that there is continued economic and political stability in the Caribbean area.

During 1969 the British Virgin Islands continued to enjoy a phenomenal rate of growth, founded in the related activities of tourism, construction and land development. There was full employment and immigration was continuing at the rate of 7% per annum. There was a healthy overall surplus in the balance of payments and the number of tourists visiting the Islands was increasing at 25% to 30% a year. There was a proliferation of hotel accommodation, but capacity was scarcely keeping pace with demand.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

The promotion of tourism has been accepted by the Government as offering the best hope for the rapid economic development of the Territory. The Virgin Islands have been naturally endowed with scenic attraction, a warm sunny climate and sheltered waters suitable for sailing. With these tourist attractions, there has been a quick influx of outside interests bent on exploiting the tourist potential of the islands. The need to protect the interests of the indigenous population, where these conflict with outside interests, has not been overlooked. The ministerial Government, elected in 1967 by the votes of the indigenous people, has tried to keep the needs of the British Virgin Islanders foremost in its thinking and planning.

The social effects of the very rapid growth rate were, however, made apparent during 1969 by demonstrations of public dissatisfaction with the Anegada and Wickham's Cay development agreements. A Commission of Enquiry was set up to look into this matter and it produced its recommendations towards the end of the year.

In 1965, with a population mainly of African descent, there were only about 230 persons of European and American descent resident in the Territory. This number continued to increase during the period under review.

Although the possibility of a museum was considered, the Public Library, located in Road Town, remained the main flourishing cultural institution. Books were lent free of charge and the library continued to be well patronised, with an increasing stock of books available. 1968 was the Silver Jubilee year of the Virgin Islands Public Library. The total bookstock at the end of 1969 was 11,616, the total number of registered borrowers 2,806. The circulation was 8,066 adult and 3,995 juvenile loans at the library headquarters and 94 adult and 767 juvenile on mobile library runs.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The number of pensionable and contract Civil Servants increased during the period under review from 23 in 1965 to 59 in 1969.

The implementation in 1966 of the review of Civil Service salaries carried out by A. G. H. Gardner-Brown failed to induce enough interest among British Virgin Islanders for sufficient numbers to seek employment in the Public Service. Salary levels remained inadequate compared with those in operation in business and commerce. A further review of the salaries and conditions of service of the B.V.I. Civil Service was successfully completed in October, 1968 by F. N. M. Pusinelli and revised emoluments were made payable from 1st January, 1969.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments:

Honours presented by Her Majesty during her visit to Road Town on 23rd February, 1966:

His Honour the Administrator Mr M. S. Staveley, C.B.E. — C.V.O.

Inspector T. S. Jarvis — Royal Victorian Medal

Corporal J. Williams — Royal Victorian Medal

Mr Sydney St. Clair Farara — B.E.M.

Birthday Honours, 1966

His Honour Mr M. S. Staveley, C.V.O., C.B.E. — C.M.G.

Mr Carris Penn — B.E.M.

New Year Honours, 1967

Mr J. R. O'Neal, M.B.E., J.P. — O.B.E.

Mr J. T. Bailey — Medal of the Order of St. John

Birthday Honours, 1967

Miss Malvina Donovan — M.B.E.

Mrs Dolorita Juanita Hendricks — B.E.M.

New Year Honours, 1968

Mr Ernest Conrad Pickering — M.B.E.

Dr Arthur Hurt — M.B.E. (Honorary)

Mr Stanley Nibbs — B.E.M.

Mrs Iris O'Neal — B.E.M.

Birthday Honours, 1968

His Honour Mr J. S. Thomson, M.B.E. — C.M.G.

The Honourable H. O. Creque — O.B.E.

New Years Honours, 1969

Miss Enid L. Scatliffe — M.B.E.

Mr Willard Wheatley — M.B.E.

Birthday Honours, 1969

Mr A. O. Shirley — O.B.E.

Mrs A. T. Waters — B.E.M.

VISITORS

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Territory on the 23rd February, 1966.

Other distinguished visitors included Sir Harwood Harrison, M.P. in January, 1965, Sir George Dunnet, K.B.E., C.B. in February, 1965, Commander Sir Douglas Marshall and Sir Denys and Lady Lowson in April, 1965, Mr Neil Marten, M.P. in April 1967, Lt.-General Sir John Mogg, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. in July, 1968, Major-General R. L. Clutterbuck in October, 1968, and Sir Fred Phillips in February, 1969.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the British Virgin Islands was 7,340 in 1960, as recorded by the census taken that year, distributed as follows:

Tortola	6,262
Virgin Gorda	562
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	173
Other Islands	74
Total	<hr/> 7,340 <hr/>

Preliminary figures for the 1970 census are as follows:

Tortola	8,939
Virgin Gorda	1,025
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	124
Other Islands	106
Total	<hr/> 10,484 <hr/>

A breakdown of the figure for Tortola in 1970 is as follows:

Road Town	2,183
East End—Long Look	1,847
The rest	4,909
Total	<hr/> 8,939 <hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

ORGANISATION

UNSKILLED, semi-skilled and a limited amount of skilled labour is available in the Territory. A certain amount of immigrant labour is permitted, providing of course the following requirements are met:

- (1) There is no British Virgin Islander available for the particular job;
- (2) Good, clean police records are produced;
- (3) Good health certificates are produced;

- (4) Return passage to the worker's home is guaranteed by the employer or the employee.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance (No. 1 of 1953) allows a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriates, as Government is aware that certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally and therefore expatriates must fill them until such time as local Virgin Islanders are trained.

There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the Territory and the Act (No. 21 of 1937) Section 2 states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Administrator deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Administrator may deem fit.

The minimum wage rates currently paid by the Government of the British Virgin Islands for an eight hour day are as follows:

Unskilled from 6.00 dollars to 8.00 dollars.

Carpenters and masons from 9.00 dollars to 12.00 dollars.

However, contractors and other private employers pay higher rates so as to attract the best workmen. They pay from 8.00 dollars to 10.00 dollars for unskilled and from 12.00 dollars to 16.00 dollars and in a few cases 18.00 for carpenters and masons.

Due to the high cost of living and the low salaries paid by Government compared with private firms, a Salaries Commission was appointed in 1968 and as a result substantial increases were recommended and implemented in 1969.

The main sources of employment are to be found in:—Government, i.e. Clerical, Technical; and Professional Teachers, Police, Labourers in the Public Works and Agricultural Departments and domestic staff; Hotels and the Catering Business; Contractors; Banks; Businesses and Manufacturing.

It can be readily seen that the Government is the largest source of employment in the Territory.

Payment for work on a piece work basis exists in the British Virgin Islands. For example, at the concrete block making plants, employees in most cases are paid at a certain rate for each block produced. The reason for this is obvious, since the demand is so great.

There is no shortage of work in the Territory, as existing hotels are full and the staff are busy, while in the construction field more hotels,

guest houses, private residences and roads are being built and repaired, piped water, electricity and telephones are being extended, improvements are being made to the hospital and other government buildings, schools are being built, the marinas are in full operation, including charter boat and other services, thereby making unemployment practically non-existent. In a labour force of 2,508 workers only 37 native workers were registered as without work.

At present there are no Trade Unions in the B.V.I. Under the Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950) a Labour Commissioner was appointed whose duty consists in ensuring that laws affecting labour are duly enforced including the settlement of Labour Disputes and seeing that workmen work under sanitary conditions and that they are properly paid under the existing wage rates. Unemployment benefits do not exist, but a Social Security Scheme is planned. There is legislation covering Workmen's Compensation in the event of injury sustained at work.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

UP to the outbreak of the Second World War the B.V.I. boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finance of the B.V.I.

During the period 1956-60 local revenue never exceeded 46 per cent of the budget and in those years rose only from \$164,000 to \$180,000. Grants-in-aid fluctuated between 54 per cent and 71 per cent of total expenditure, reaching a peak in 1961. While there was an upward trend in revenue, a steep rise in expenditure to improve and increase services created a fiscal situation in which deficit spending would apparently always be the rule.

During the period 1966-1969 receipts from local revenue increased progressively. Although the Territory experienced spectacular economic growth, Government could not meet its recurrent commitments from its own revenues. Despite Devaluation in 1967 and the pressure which was placed on Britain's finances and her entire monetary system, Grant-in-Aid figures for 1967 show some increase over 1966. This was however, effectively reduced in 1968. A total of \$344,555 was received in grants for 1967 and \$266,400 in

1968, representing 23·6% of Government's recurrent account for 1968.

Government's recurrent expenditure also showed a steady increase, due mainly to the fact that 1967 was the year of Constitutional changes which brought about the introduction of the Ministerial system and also in view of the general increase in the level of economic activity in the Territory. It was necessary for certain minor tax alterations to be effected to earn extra funds needed to meet the recurrent budget. No major revision of the fiscal structure was considered at the time as the Report of the newly appointed Fiscal Review Committee was awaited.

The division of the budget between local revenue and grants-in-aid over the years 1965 to 1969 is as follows:

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Revenue	671,299	974,000	1,220,000	1,737,516	2,145,926
Grants-in-Aid	613,462	337,000	345,000	266,400	210,000

The infrastructure of the Territory was in urgent need of an infusion of capital so that its development could keep pace with the rapidly growing development in the private sector. The greatest needs were for extended electricity supply, an airport to accommodate larger aircraft and improved cargo handling facilities to cater for direct shipping from the United Kingdom and the United States, which services were established in 1968.

During the period the following major capital projects were undertaken to fulfil these requirements:

Under Phase 2 of the Electricity Extension Scheme, the Eastern Division of Tortola was supplied with electricity and other areas of the Island were scheduled to be connected later.

A unit of officers and men of the 53rd (Airfield) Squadron of the Royal Engineers was commissioned to carry out extension work on the Beef Island Airstrip to provide the Territory with a first class Airfield capable of receiving up to 50-seater aircraft.

It became necessary to rebuild the old wooden jetty at Road Town to cope with the volume of cargo entering the Territory at Road Town and to provide warehousing facilities under customs supervision.

In the educational field a new Comprehensive School was constructed and equipped to accommodate 800 pupils of post primary age.

Total public revenue in 1968 amounted to 2,558,461 dollars of which 820,945 dollars consisted of aid from the United Kingdom (including Grant-in-Aid). Corresponding figures for 1967 were 2,013,780 and 824,217 and for 1966 1,588,331 and 613,932. Expenditures for 1966 to 1968 were as follows:

	1965 \$	1966 \$	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$
Recurrent expenditures	963,457	1,306,259	1,418,429	1,726,274	2,542,314
Capital expenditures	1,023,648	389,130	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044
Total	1,987,105	1,695,389	2,075,599	3,176,465	3,672,358

Budget estimates for 1969 amounted to 5,433,128 dollars of which 2,526,128 dollars was for recurrent and 2,907,000 for capital expenditures. United Kingdom aid to the Territory in 1968-69 totalled 1,150,000 dollars, approximately one quarter of the figure being budgetary assistance.

On recurrent account, local revenue and expenditure is expected to balance in 1970, without need of budgetary aid. The principal source of revenue is import duties, which in 1970 is expected to treble the amount collected in 1967. The demand for new services to meet the rapid growth in the economy from private sector development continues fully to absorb revenue, without permitting contributions to Government spending on capital account. Servicing costs for public debt (other than electricity, which is self-financing) amount to only 4% of recurrent expenditure. On capital account, expenditure in 1969 was £·4 million of which half was for electricity development.

TAXATION

Towards the end of 1967 Government appointed a Committee to review the fiscal structure of the Territory and to make recommendations. The Committee submitted its report to Government in July 1968 and its recommendations were studied by the B.V.I. Government and the Government of the United Kingdom.

Among the proposals which were accepted by Government were changes in Income Tax—Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% on total income and an additional 12% is proposed after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the Territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Arrangements also exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief.

Other proposals involve changes in the tariff of import duties designed not to increase revenue *per se* but to switch over from an F.O.B. to a C.I.F. basis and with a narrower margin between general and preferential rates. In addition some staple food items will be duty free. Land taxes will be revised upwards and structured to achieve the following:—

- (a) to attain a lower rate of tax in the case of local land owners;
- (b) Suppression of land speculation;
- (c) that land is developed when acquired by expatriates;
- (d) that developed land held by expatriates enjoys more favourable tax treatment.

It is anticipated as expressed in the Report of the Fiscal Review Committee that with careful management the present rate of growth of the economy of the B.V.I. should make it possible to dispense with recurrent assistance. The need for capital assistance, however, would probably remain for a longer period.

Details of Revenue and Expenditure for 1966 to 1969 are as follows:—

	REVENUE			
	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customs & Excise	401,229	445,779	687,700	946,917
Harbour & Wharf Dues	7,322	9,176	19,500	19,310
Taxes & Licences	147,298	156,978	228,733	513,066
Fines & Forfeitures	2,795	4,054	4,000	5,774
Govt. Depts. & Services	165,401	202,778	80,725	436,368
Post Office	207,658	134,615	145,734	171,087
Rent of Govt. Property	15,126	24,158	21,800	40,103
Interest	5,036	6,285	6,300	5,276
Miscellaneous	18,069	41,992	7,800	8,025
Land Sales	4,465	2,946	904	—
Other Sources (incl. loan funds)	—	187,801	534,320	—
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE:	974,399	1,219,562	1,737,516	2,145,926
From United Kingdom				
Grant-in-Aid (Recurrent)	337,229	344,555	266,400	210,000
C.D. & W. Schemes	127,766	199,604	522,297	397,968
Overseas Service Aid				
Scheme	26,230	24,612	32,248	34,033
Grant-in-Aid (Capital)	122,706	225,445	—	—
	1,588,330	2,013,778	2,558,461	2,960,334

	EXPENDITURE			
	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Recurrent Expenditure				
Administration	99,995	86,868	93,589	182,259
Legal & Judicial	28,587	28,358	35,018	47,504
Police & Fire Brigade	53,346	68,322	94,734	183,514
Finance	128,722	161,497	210,955	370,437
Audit	7,774	8,355	16,991	7,754
Chief Minister's Office	9,948	26,428	67,291	125,261
Legislature	16,184	26,856	20,627	32,360
Education	288,948	254,810	302,837	524,460
Ministry of Natural Resources	58,812	75,185	91,138	111,011

EXPENDITURE—continued

	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Public Health	137,135	151,430	173,960	262,732
Miscellaneous	110,951	142,963	—	—
Ministry of Communi- cations Works & Industry	280,701	285,196	300,159	449,714
Electricity Department	59,516	63,085	278,447	182,828
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	25,516	39,078	40,528	62,480
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	1,306,259	1,418,431	1,726,274	2,542,314
Capital Expenditure	389,130	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044
TOTAL	1,695,389	2,075,561	3,176,465	3,672,358

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Territory is in a unique currency position, sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the Territory is part of the sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself has no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. Special regulations govern the conversion of sterling area currencies into dollars for use in the Territory but every assistance is given to genuine investors to facilitate the conversion of sterling. Applications for such conversions must be made to the Administrator who forwards recommended applications to the United Kingdom Exchange Control Authorities for approval. Sterling area conversions which gain such approval may be carried out without payment of the investment dollar premium.

Visitors from the sterling area may cash up to £250 in travellers cheques per month or on each visit to the Territory. They may not, however, operate dollar bank accounts without Exchange Control Approval.

There are now four commercial banks in the Territory—the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May 1961), Barclays D.C.O. (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969) and the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968). The following table shows the growth of advances and deposits in these banks since 1966:

Commercial Banks—Advances and Deposits 1966-1969

(figures in \$000)

	<i>End 1966</i>	<i>End 1967</i>	<i>End 1968</i>	<i>End 1969</i>
Total Deposits . . .	3,051	4,963	8,406	20,026
Total Advances . . .	2,879	3,698	8,977	17,481

The majority of the advances are in respect of Conventional Mortgage loans and Personal loans, although loans for construction purposes, commercial bridging finance and loans to Government have shown substantial increases over the period.

Interest rates on advances are normally between 1% and 2½% above the Federal Reserve Rate in the United States of America.

Chapter 5: Commerce

IN spite of a preferential tariff for imports from Commonwealth countries, the trade of the Territory is carried on principally with the United States of America and its Caribbean possessions, exports being confined almost entirely to the United States Virgin Islands. However, the introduction of direct shipping services with the U.K. in 1968 and the effect of devaluation of sterling in 1967, have effected an increase in the proportion of imports originating in Commonwealth countries and the United Kingdom at a time when imports have grown rapidly.

The direction of trade was as follows:

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports \$000</i>				<i>Exports \$000</i>			
	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>
U.S.A. Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands . . .	1,768	2,003	2,583	4,416	80	157	73	116
U.K.	639	779	743	1,377	—	—	1	—
Leeward Islands . . .	59	17	14	37	—	—	2	—
Other Commonwealth Countries . . .	255	201	223	313	2	—	—	—
Other Foreign Countries . . .	240	143	327	456	17	—	11	29
TOTALS:	2,961	3,143	3,890	6,599	99	157	87	145

The Territory continued to have a substantial and increasing adverse trade balance, offset by tourist receipts, capital inflows, remittances of British Virgin Islanders working abroad, earnings of trading sloops and by grants from British funds in the form of Grants-in-Aid of Administration and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

Imports to the Territory for 1969 valued \$8,099,208, which represents an increase of 22.7% over 1968's figure.

Exports dropped considerably from \$145,000 in 1968 to \$49,754 in 1969. The following table shows an analysis of the principal imported items:

1969 Principal Imports

	<i>Total Value Imports</i>	<i>Imports From U.K.</i>	<i>U.K. % of Total Imports</i>
	\$	\$	
Machinery & Accessories	145,660	16,552	11.36
Machinery other	344,287	127,979	37.17
Electronic Goods & Apparatus	99,250	83,526	84.15
Reinforcing Iron	101,720	4,218	4.14
Trucks & Jeeps	382,899	200,202	52.29
Wood & Timber— Manufactured	348,437	12,389	3.55
Motor Cars	302,067	63,785	21.11
Implements & Tools	39,618	20,698	52.24

Further studies were carried out by Government for the construction of a deep-water berth in the Baughers Bay area to provide proper facilities for the handling of large ocean going vessels. At present, freighters from four shipping lines anchor midway in the harbour and discharge cargo by means of a lighterage service. The vessels which ply regularly to Tortola are from the Booker Line, sailing from Liverpool, The Royal Netherlands Dutch Line (K.N.S.M.), sailing from Europe, and Atlantic and Florida Lines from the United States of America.

When the deep-water harbour project is completed, the present facilities will be available exclusively for the use of passenger traffic.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OF THE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1969**

	\$
(a) Total Imports	8,099,208.29
(b) Total Exports	49,754.00
(c) Total Re-Exports	12,774.25
(d) <i>Summary of Imports</i>	
United Kingdom	1,869,569.91
British North America	60,203.74
Leeward Islands	35,140.77
Windward Islands	67,074.52
Other British Countries	894,682.50
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	4,285,450.83
Other Foreign Countries	887,086.02
Total External Trade:	8,099,208.29

(e) *Summary of Exports*

United Kingdom	nil
British North America	nil
Leeward Islands	300·00
Windward Islands	nil
Other British Countries	2,350·00
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	47,104·00
Other Foreign Countries	nil
Total External Trade:	49,754·00

(f) *Summary of Re-Exports*

United Kingdom	nil
British North America	nil
Leeward Islands	nil
Windward Islands	nil
Other British Countries	nil
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	12,774·25
Other Foreign Countries	nil
Total External Trade:	12,774·25

FOREIGN TRADE

(in U.S. \$ 000)

<i>Year</i>	<i>F.O.B.</i>	<i>Imports</i> <i>% Increase</i>	<i>Exports</i> <i>F.O.B.</i>	<i>Re-Exports</i> <i>F.O.B.</i>	<i>Balance</i>
1965	2,961	21·6	99	4	-2,858
1966	3,143	6·1	157	67	-2,919
1967	3,890	23·8	88	12	-3,790
1968	6,599	69·6	145	9	-6,445
1969	8,099	22·7	50	13	-8,036

VALUE OF IMPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES INTO THE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1965 \$	1966 \$	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$
Wheaten Flour	41,195·62	39,882·08	45,121·83	48,002·62	55,047·64
Cornmeal (Maize)	4,316·52	2,641·81	3,158·88	2,479·50	1,837·08
Rice	19,346·64	20,627·14	25,166·46	65,162·44	33,685·04
Bread & Biscuits	22,304·51	23,165·11	27,086·37	29,116·38	47,434·54
Butter & Substitutes	20,631·27	18,932·50	23,183·57	25,122·21	27,983·04
Edible Oils	16,930·77	15,184·22	19,912·22	27,641·09	33,459·93
Lards & Substitutes	7,652·13	6,853·34	6,002·27	5,440·83	8,391·36
Preserved Milk	53,798·70	50,213·01	59,719·31	67,587·98	96,237·17
Cheese	11,713·92	15,315·72	15,912·25	19,087·63	24,847·12
Preserved Fish	15,383·95	17,880·81	20,336·72	22,234·98	38,053·37
Preserved Meat	42,754·03	75,003·29	76,158·09	63,638·74	103,363·15
Fruit & Vegetables	30,406·55	35,194·69	50,530·52	41,332·69	54,453·45
Coffee	9,390·27	5,235·29	11,090·07	13,179·95	22,526·41
Tea	1,141·36	1,721·60	1,433·28	1,386·16	3,860·96
Cocoa	5,110·41	2,931·37	3,557·92	4,396·82	4,376·15
Sugar	41,021·65	37,063·63	42,319·75	37,489·29	54,709·43
Animal Feeding Stuff	12,807·41	35,909·23	33,423·38	37,234·13	33,960·68

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial

The main industry of the British Virgin Islands is tourism and its related field, such as:

- (1) Catering, i.e. hotels, guest-houses, restaurants, gift shops and clubs;
- (2) Transport, i.e. motor launches, yachts, aircraft, motor vehicles and, to a lesser extent, riding animals such as horses and donkeys.

In this connection, there is a considerable amount of construction in progress in the form of hotels, guest-houses and residence in the private sector, while the construction of schools, roads, extension of electricity and water supply are being undertaken by Government. There are nine concrete block-making plants in the Territory, but these are unable to meet all demands. A large modern plant is currently being installed, which it is hoped will cope with demand for some time to come.

Agriculture & Fisheries

Except for the Government Stock Farm, where three stockmen and three labourers are regularly employed and where agricultural labourers are employed from time to time as occasion demands, there are no large concerns in the agricultural field. Most Virgin Islanders own land, and those who farm it do so individually or as a family venture. A number of self-employed men throughout the Territory engage in fishing, both for home consumption and export to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands. Agriculture is, however, generally declining.

Agricultural Department

Due to the departure of the Livestock Officer late in 1967, the two divisions of the Department, namely Livestock and Crops Division, have since been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Agriculture. The staff includes four agricultural officers, one forestry officer and two clerks.

The activities of the Department continues to include: the provision of planting material for crop husbandry, the improvement and extension of pastures, the protection of forest and conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a Loan Scheme, and the fostering of livestock production

by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry.

The two agricultural officers who were undergoing a course of training in agriculture at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute, returned to the Territory during 1968. One successfully completed his course and the other was unsuccessful.

Due to expanding development in the Road Town area, Government has decided to make more land available for this purpose and as the lands used by the Department of Agriculture were the chosen sites, the activities of the Department were transferred to Paraquita Bay.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1968 was 51·82 inches, as compared with 34·82 inches in 1967. Although the total precipitation was higher, distribution was uneven. The heaviest showers were experienced from September to December. The highest daily rainfall recorded was 3·00 inches on the 18th October.

During 1969, weather conditions were considered to be both evenly distributed as well as being a generous supply. This has had an obvious effect on the local water supply within the Territory. The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for the year was 67·11 inches, as compared with 51·82 inches in 1968. The highest daily rainfall recorded was 5·25 inches on the 22nd November.

A statement of monthly rainfall figures of the years 1960-1969, as recorded at the Agricultural Station, is set out below.

Agricultural Production

Sugar Cane: The production of sugar cane is declining, however the small area which is left is used for both chewing and rum manufacturing.

Limes: The production of limes is being encouraged. There is a growing demand for limes, both locally and in the export market, and prices paid can be said to be good. During 1969, 163 barrels, as compared with 40 barrels in 1968, were produced.

Coconuts: There was a marked decrease in the export of coconuts. Exports of green and dry nuts were 12,766 in 1969, as compared with 18,473 in 1968. Sprouted nuts continue to be made available to both farmers and land owners.

Bananas: The export of bananas showed a slight decrease during 1969; 838 bunches were exported as compared with 930 bunches in 1968. The local market was adequately supplied throughout the year.

RAINFALL 1960-1969

Month	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	10-yearly monthly average
January	2.08	3.14	3.53	1.84	3.43	1.68	4.34	1.36	1.98	3.61	2.70
February	2.02	2.54	1.43	2.29	1.33	0.49	1.91	2.63	2.75	7.77	2.42
March	1.92	1.47	2.11	4.10	2.25	0.66	1.99	.45	2.56	.82	1.83
April	8.60	2.01	2.57	2.49	2.56	4.08	7.54	.30	2.28	.62	3.31
May	13.36	1.20	7.34	4.13	1.96	11.61	1.28	4.03	3.02	16.28	6.42
June	4.64	1.72	6.39	1.34	1.32	2.98	2.88	3.44	5.00	4.12	3.38
July	8.03	3.25	3.11	4.48	3.50	4.11	5.63	2.33	3.48	3.13	4.11
August	2.35	4.77	5.46	11.65	4.03	4.77	4.06	2.43	2.12	7.46	4.90
September	8.53	1.64	6.62	4.47	2.85	4.43	6.59	2.60	5.87	3.53	4.71
October	1.09	6.71	4.73	2.75	3.90	5.53	5.64	6.26	8.17	5.66	5.04
November	8.00	8.48	1.88	2.56	2.49	3.99	5.38	7.29	7.95	12.57	6.05
December	10.90	5.05	2.68	0.55	2.13	4.05	3.85	1.70	6.64	2.54	4.00
Annual	71.52	41.98	47.85	42.65	31.75	48.38	51.09	34.82	51.82	67.11	48.88

Food Crops: Throughout the period under review, there was generally a limited supply of vegetables in the local market from January to October, but more adequate supplies were available during the remaining months.

Nurseries: Three additional nurseries were established during 1968 at the following places: Brewers Bay, The Hope and Fahie Hill. Due to unfavourable weather conditions, progress was slow until the showers in September of that year, which made a marked difference to the production of vegetables and ground provisions.

Animal Husbandry

General: The Department's activities continued in the production of improved livestock for the purpose of selling to farmers in order to boost the agricultural interest within each community.

Breeding experiments were carried out within two breeds, the Red Poll and Zebu. Their offspring seem to thrive better in these tropical countries. They also prove to have more resistance to tick-fever and a higher temperature range than the pure Red Poll and Zebu.

Production: The production of livestock has been maintained at a very high level. All the marketing sections have been fully supplied. Pigs remained in good condition as they were treated with Hog Cholera Vaccine, which is effective against swine fever for one year. The production of pigs was maintained and the local market absorbed most of the pigs produced. The production of goats and sheep has steadily increased. The production of cattle, both for breeding purposes and for slaughter, has been maintained.

The Department continued to encourage poultry production, for both eggs and eating. Officers from the Department advised farmers on the best methods to use in the production of fowl, recommending the best type of breed and best types of managerial practices to apply etc. Very successful results were achieved, as there is a very great demand for whole chickens and eggs on the local market.

Health: There are thirteen Dipping Vats throughout the island, where farmers at regular intervals can dip their animals. This practice has kept animals free from ticks and therefore considerably helped avoid problems of tick-fever, Anaplasmosis, Piroplasmosis.

Exports: The export of livestock continued, both to St. Thomas and to the French West Indies. The following tables show the analysis of livestock export according to type and sex.

Prices ranged from 18-20¢ per lb. liveweight for cattle, 30-35¢ per lb. for sheep and 22¢ per lb. for pigs.

TABLE I
Exports 1967-1969

Species	St. Thomas			French West Indies			Total Exports		
	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969	1967	1968	1969
Cattle	76	139	61	94	295	44	170	434	105
Sheep	20	135	6	—	—	—	20	135	6
Goats	49	37	3	—	—	—	49	37	3
Swine	176	106	27	—	—	—	176	106	27
TOTAL:	321	417	97	94	295	44	415	712	141

TABLE II
Exports to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands—
Type and Sex Analysis, 1968 & 1969

Species	Sex	1968	1969
Cattle	Bulls	38	35
	Heifers	39	15
	Cows	62	11
		139	61
Sheep	Rams	23	4
	Ewes	112	2
		135	6
Goats	Bucks	9	1
	Does	28	2
		37	3
Swine	Sows	71	10
	Barrows	35	17
		106	27

Stock Farm: The maintenance of farms continued. Both artificial fertilizer and organic manure were incorporated into the paddocks. Fertilizers were applied at the rate of 3 cwt. per acre per year.

Both the Stallion and Jack were transferred from the Botanic Station to the Stock Farm at Paraquita Bay in 1969. One house for the housing of the Stallion is under construction, and should be completed early in 1970. Also under construction is a long house for housing the pigs. At its completion early in 1970, the pigs will be transferred from the Botanic Station to Paraquita Bay Stock Farm.

Agricultural Credit: Loans issued and repayments made during 1967, 1968 and 1969 were as follows:

Old Scheme (Agricultural Credit Fund)

1967	1968	1969
15 Loans —\$6,430·00	13 Loans —\$5,425·00	2 Loans —\$1,400·00
Repayments—\$5,039·16	Repayments—\$5,378·00	Repayments—\$5,193·38

New Scheme (Pasture Improvement Fund)

1967	1968	1969
12 Loans — \$3,370.00	4 Loans — \$1,750.00	7 Loans — \$5,200.00
Repayments—\$1,623.31	Repayments—\$2,459.03	Repayments—\$3,363.83

The low rate of loans for 1969 was due unfortunately to members not being able to attend meetings, but it is hoped that this situation will be improved in 1970.

Fishing: There was an adequate supply of fish for local use as well as for export. There are fishing tournaments which are on an international level and so far success has been most gratifying.

Fisheries Credit: Loans to fishermen continued. Although the number of loans issued to fishermen were extremely few, such assistance proved to be of great benefit to both fishermen and consumer alike. It is gratifying to record that there has been an increase in the amount of fish brought to market and a fair surplus for export.

The number of loans issued and repayments made in 1967, 1968 and 1969 was as follows:

1967	1968	1969
4 Loans — \$1,690.00	2 Loans — \$ 865.00	3 Loans — \$2,450.00
Repayments—\$1,711.35	Repayments—\$1,284.25	Repayments—\$1,305.06

Forestry: There is one Forestry Officer, who is responsible to the Chief Agricultural Officer, and whose duties are divided between the Department and "The National Parks Trust" under the Chairmanship of the Hon J. R. O'Neal. Work on forestry is progressing satisfactorily.

His Honour the Administrator has encouraged visits to the Territory by forestry experts, and it is hoped that some of their recommendations will be implemented as soon as funds can be made available. Approximately 10,000 Mahogany trees have been planted in the Sage Mountain Area. Roadside tree-planting has continued.

Agricultural Shows: With improved weather conditions, it was possible to hold shows at three different places: Long Swamp, Tortola; East End, Jost Van Dyke; and the Sound, Virgin Gorda. These shows were extremely successful and exhibits were outstanding, both in the way of handicraft and fruits, vegetables and livestock.

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES FROM
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Limes	161.50	437.00	309.50	354.00	452.50
Bananas	988.75	1,684.00	2,137.00	1,344.00	1,441.00
Coconuts	2,556.00	7,885.50	4,472.00	2,978.20	1,858.00
Livestock	68,555.10	18,799.00	29,620.00	44,985.00	7,615.00
Fish	15,244.15	31,322.10	32,598.00	87,829.00	23,756.00

Surveys

Surveys became part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health portfolio on the 1st July, 1968. Mr Harold Went of Barbados was appointed Government Surveyor in 1968 and was attached to the Public Works Department. A Surveyor's licence was issued to Mr Went in October 1968. There are seven licenced surveyors in the Territory, including Mr Harold Went, Surveyor, Public Works Department and Mr R. Biddle, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. Prior to Mr Went's arrival, surveying for Government was done by private surveyors from J. A. Story and Partners.

The standard of surveyors in the Territory should conform to British standards as set by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in London. Mr H. W. Young, Principal Surveyor Officer, British Development Division, visited the Territory in October 1968 and discussed the requirements of a full Cadastral survey. Among other things, Mr Young explained:

- (i) that it was necessary for Government to consider the enactment of proper legislation;
- (ii) that there should be a central department for surveyors, who could then be seconded to any project or department.

As a result of Mr Young's visit and his advice as regards the importance of establishing a Lands and Survey Department in the British Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands Government made an application for British Technical Assistance for provision of an expert to be appointed as Land Surveyor and Titles Officer, to be attached to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health for eighteen months, to advise on the setting up of a Lands and Survey Department and to assist the Ministry in its survey requirements.

Mr A. T. Wilson, Agricultural Adviser of the British Development Division, also stressed that without proper survey documents it would be impossible to plan the rational use and conservation of land. Mr Ditlef Nielsen, the United Nations Town Planner, also recommended the use of proper survey plans of the Island.

With the exception of Nothingham Estate and Anegada, no major survey or demarcation of lands, especially Crown Lands, was undertaken during the year 1968, due to all Crown lands, especially in Virgin Gorda, being frozen.

Mining

There were a number of applicants interested in mining at the Copper Mine area in Virgin Gorda. Applicants were also interested in exploring for off-shore minerals, gas and oil and in mining sand for commercial purposes, in our bays and off-shore waters. In all

cases (minerals, gas and oil, and sand), discussions were carried out with the British Virgin Islands Government and applicants concerned with regard to royalty rates, etc., to be paid in the event of licences being granted.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE British Virgin Islands have a total population of around 12,000, of whom around 3,000 are of school age, around 2,000 are attending primary schools (5-11), and some 800 (12-18 plus) are at the High School. Thus it is the only island in the Commonwealth Caribbean to have a two-tier "straight-through" educational ladder and the only island to possess a comprehensive school of classic definition—"providing all the children in the secondary age group in a given area with the widest possible variety of educational choice".

However, the High School is not yet run "comprehensively", because it is short of staff to enable this sophisticated education feat. It was brought into being at the stroke of a pen, but for want of planning and resources lacks the sinew to stand on its own feet. Moreover, no intake could be admitted to the school in September of 1969 and so a double intake, of nearly 300 children, is queueing up for admittance in 1970. The problems abound; and are urgent.

The primary schools are just about sufficient unto the purpose so far as buildings and equipment are concerned, given that a programme of building new schools will give B.V.I. satisfactory educational plant by about the middle of the next decade. Equipment, including text books, is not in such good supply.

The major inhibition to good teaching in the primary schools is the dearth of trained teachers which, in turn, depends upon the quantity and quality of the output of the High School.

In brief, the British Virgin Islands have a sound and sensible education structure, most of its children in school right through to 16 years, a goodish and improving educational plant, but not enough qualified and experienced people to run it to the best advantage.

PRIMARY

After a long slack period (when development money was being used for other purposes, mainly communications) the Government of the British Virgin Islands has begun a vigorous drive to modernise their primary school buildings. This is planned under the C.D. & W.

programme and new schools at Cane Garden Bay and Cappeloon's Bay are presently under construction. In the next phase of the programme, the schools at Jost Van Dyke, North Sound (Virgin Gorda), Sea Cow Bay and Baugher's Bay, are all to get new buildings. When these are completed, the B.V.I., given some comparatively minor refurbishments, will be well off for primary buildings.

It is in the people who teach in them that the main deficiency is manifest. More than two-thirds of the present cadre of about a hundred primary teachers is untrained. A good deal is being done by way of inservice courses to redress some of the balance: a T.V.C.—assisted by British tutors—was run (in primary maths) in August 1968. Moreover, the appointment (at Mona, on regional TA terms) of a specialist in primary education methods, will help to get the in-service programme for unqualified teachers moving.

But the real brake upon training progress is in the comparatively small number of primary teachers being trained at the Leeward Islands College, Antigua, which averages less than half a dozen a year. At this rate, and allowing for wastage, it will take between one and two decades before the cadre becomes anything like fully trained.

SECONDARY

The small Road Town Grammar School of 150 pupils has exploded during the last year into a comprehensive school, with nearly 800 children on the role, destined to become well over a thousand by 1970. This has thrown a heavy burden on the teaching and administrative resources of the school, which it has not been able to cope with. Detailed recommendations for the future have been made by an assessment Panel (mustered by the Development Division and the U.W.I. Institute of Education) from Jamaica, Antigua, Granada, and the University, and the physical requirements of building and equipment are being catered for in phases under the C.D. & W. development programme. A new classroom and laboratory block is presently going up, to be followed by workshops and other laboratories and specialist teaching rooms.

But again, the principal gap is in the qualifications and experience of the teaching staff. The few graduates have minimal experience and the many non-graduates have experience but minimal qualifications. A great initial improvement would be made by the appointment of a few key teachers, preferably with experience in schools of this type, to be heads of departments.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Some evening classes—mainly in commercial subjects—have been running, for less than 50 students.

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

1969 was the third year under the new constitution of the British Virgin Islands. The Chief Minister remained as Minister of Education. Under the salary revision of 1969, the post of Superintendent of Education was renamed Chief Education Officer. Mr J. J. Andrews left in March 1969 and his place as Chief Education Officer was taken by Mr G. H. R. Clough (on contract), former Deputy Director of the Institute of Education of the U.W.I.

The staff of the Education Department consists of the Chief Education Officer, the Supervisor of Primary Schools, an Executive Officer, one clerk and one messenger.

The Minister is advised by a Board of Education which met five times during 1969. Among several other important matters, it considered the Report of a survey team headed by Dr Gordon Lavenden. The B.V.I. High School Committee, which was reconstituted early in 1969, which met four times during that year, includes representatives of the Board of Education, parents of pupils attending the school and a representative of the School Staff Association; it advises the Principal on matters concerning the welfare and development of the school. Its Chairman, the Chief Education Officer, who is also Chairman of the Primary Schools Commission and Secretary of the Board of Education, is able to co-ordinate the activities of these three advisory and executive groups and to transmit information between them. The Primary Schools Commission met 6 times during 1969.

One major improvement was the implementation of the Civil Service Salaries Revision, with effect from 1st January, 1969, which produced substantially increased salaries for teachers. The basic starting salary was raised from \$840 p.a. to \$1,800 p.a. whilst, at the top of the scale, Head Teachers' salaries were increased by approximately fifty per cent.

The present scales are:

	\$	\$
Assistant Teacher Grade II	1,800	— 3,864
Assistant Teacher Grade I (College trained)	3,360	— 4,620
Specialist subject teacher	4,440	— 5,796
Primary School Head Teacher	5,184	— 6,480
Graduate Teacher	5,592	— 8,100
Principal, High School	9,600	

Special allowances are payable to Head Teachers of the Primary Schools on a capitation basis, and to those members of High School staff who carry out duties as Heads of Division or Heads of Departments. Mainly as a result of the salary increases, education costs have risen sharply. The present cost of education in the Primary School is about \$160 per pupil per annum, while the cost in the High School

is about \$367 per pupil per annum. There is now no selective entry test for pupils to enter the High School, which provides free secondary education for all those children whose parents request it. Total recurrent expenditure in 1969 was \$81,012, higher than in 1968; personal emoluments totalled \$97,351 and other charges \$351,604: Total \$448,955. In the case of Capital Expenditure, as the amount of grant to be given from overseas to subsidise recurrent expenditure declined, it was practicable for the Ministry of Overseas Development to increase considerably the amounts of capital and other special grants for education; these included grants for W.I. scholarships, for equipment for the High School, and provision for a second phase of development in primary education, namely grants for school buildings, purchase of school sites and other improvements.

An important event was the visit in May 1969, at the request of the Minister of Education, of a survey team led by Dr Gordon Lavender of the University of the West Indies, which included experienced educators from Jamaica, Antigua and Granada. The report on the High School was unfortunately delayed in receipt until October of 1969. It was accepted by Government which considered it a frank but constructive document. It was then too late to implement certain of its recommendations as regards a summer conference and extensive reorganisation within the school. It was therefore decided that time would be spent during the school year September 1969 to July 1970 discussing with the school staff, the High School Advisory Committee and the Board of Education, the reorganisation necessary. It would also be appropriate to delay any wholesale reform until the new Principal, due to take up work in August 1970, has had time to consider fully all its implications.

Another important visit in 1969 was that of the Working Party of the U.W.I., in the period 12th to 14th November, 1969. This party was to make an on-the-spot assessment of the individual needs of this Territory and how best the University might meet those needs.

At the request of the Chief Minister, a team from the British Development Division in Barbados visited from the 3rd to 5th December 1969 to advise on ways and means of improving the pace and quality of educational development. It was led by Mr Stanley Wood, C.B.E., who is the Educational Advisor to the Division. The section of the report which dealt with education listed some of the difficulties and problems but spoke with appreciation of the vigorous drive under the present Administration to modernise the primary school buildings and to develop the system as an entity providing free primary and secondary education.

During 1969, these islands had the pleasure of being host to one of the meetings of the Board of Governors of the L.I.T.T.C. At present, there are only three territories participating in the College, namely Antigua, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. These meetings were attended by the Chief Education Officers of the Territories and the Principal of the College. The discussions in 1969 were concerned with far reaching proposals for the development of the College. The Chief Minister addressed the opening meeting of the Board.

The New Year Honours for 1969 included the award of the M.B.E. to Miss Enid Scatliffe, Supervisor of Primary Schools since 1st January, 1961. Miss Scatliffe has given faithful and efficient service for several years as Assistant Teacher and Head Teacher and has acted as Superintendent of Education and as Chief Education Officer.

STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION

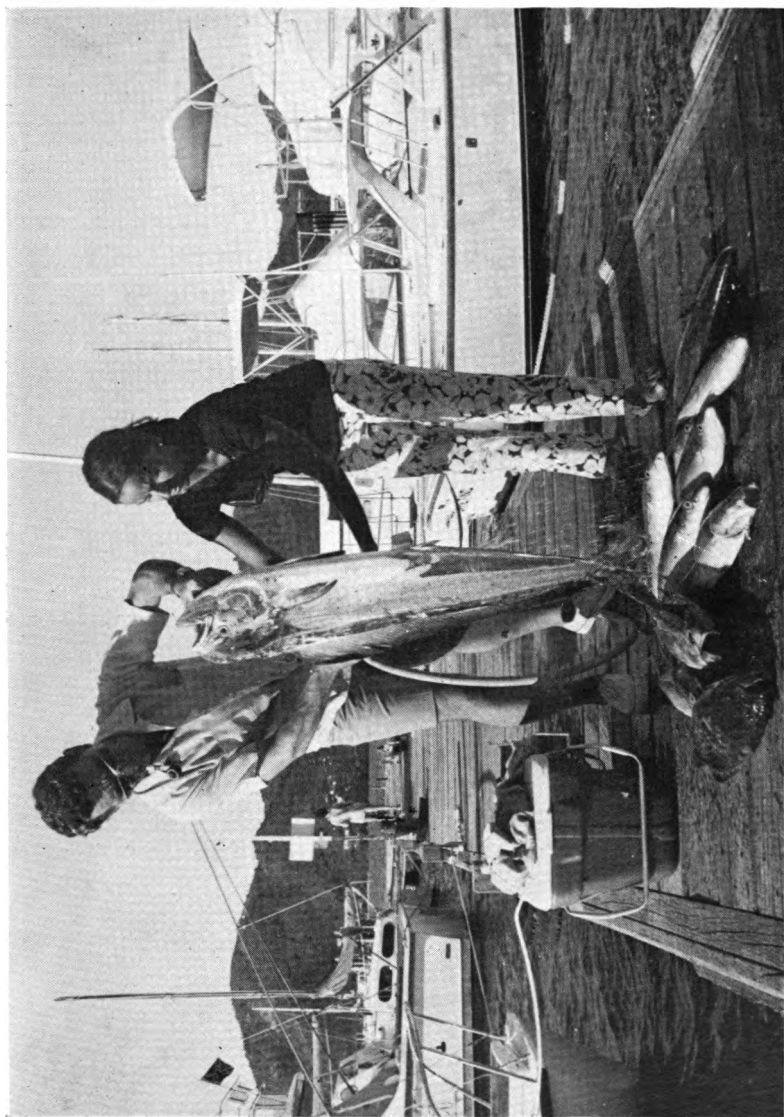
Primary Education

School attendance figures for 1969 show a high average percentage attendance of 87%. At 31st December, 1969, there were 2,005 children enrolled in the primary and post primary sections of the primary schools. There were 88 teachers on the job. The proportion of teachers to pupil in the primary school is, by West Indian standards, generous, being at present about 22 to 1. A very high proportion, 68% of the assistant teachers in the primary schools, are untrained and thirty did not complete a secondary education. These teachers were given very small classes of about 15, which, it was considered, they might be able to cope with.

Programmes of inservice training are being prepared to raise the academic and professional standard of teachers, both in the primary and in the high schools. Use is being made of the U.W.I. Institute Course and of local orientation courses.

As a follow-up to the course in Mathematics run in August 1968 under the sponsorship of the British Council and the M.O.D., by two senior school inspectors from Staffordshire, England, a V.S.O. was appointed to visit the schools where the 51 teachers were at work to plan curricula and give demonstrations.

The new post of Supervisor of Teacher Training has not yet been filled. This provision should enable a more definite impact to be made on standards of class teaching. One additional teacher was sent to the L.I.T.T.C. in September and the M.O.D. generously provided scholarships for all the four teachers who entered in that term. Opportunities for awards to the U.W.I. in Barbados, for Canadian awards, the Commonwealth Bursaries, were all accepted in spite of the difficulty of finding suitable persons with an adequate secondary



Sportsfishing: One of the Tourist Attractions which the B.V.I. Offers



Treasure Isle Hotel, Road Town



Inter Island Hydrofoil



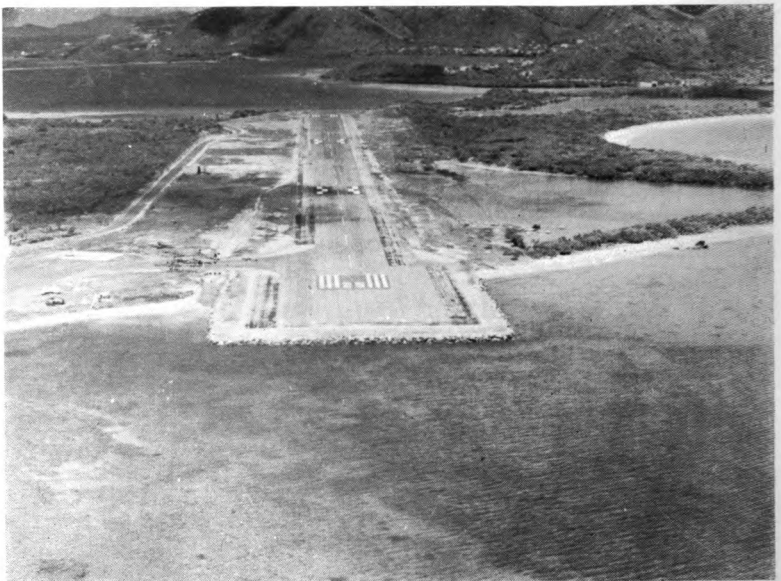
Interior of Tourist Shop



General View of Wickham's Cay



Wickham's Cay: Zone 'B' Reclamation



The Runway, Beef Island Airport

education and the normal five G.C.E. 'O' levels. The selection of qualified persons for scholarship awards and for teaching in the primary schools, must await the expected increased outflow of students from the fifth form of the Secondary School, after their normal five years of secondary education.

Three teachers returned in July 1969, after a two-year course at the L.I.T.T.C. Four teachers, all on scholarships provided by the British Development Division, went to the College for training in September 1969. There are now seven teachers at the College.

Advantage is being taken of the offer of British Commonwealth Bursaries. Two teachers returned in July 1969 from courses in primary education and in September of the same year three teachers took up awards. It has been necessary, in view of the shortage of qualified and trained staff at the High School, to temporarily attach some of these trained teachers there. However, every effort is being made to obtain graduates and specialist staff for the High School, so that in another year or two it may be possible to allow some of these teachers who have been given Bursaries to revert to the primary schools to strengthen work there. The success of the secondary school will be severely handicapped unless pupils entering it at age 11 or 12 have had an adequate basic education; this will be more likely to be achieved, especially in the several primary schools about to be re-built, if the Principals and senior staff have been specially prepared for modern teaching.

Two Head Teachers have now completed the second year of a four-year degree course in Canada; one Head Teacher is on the second year of a two-year B.Ed. course, and one graduate completed a one-year Diploma in Education course at the University at Mona. The number of students in training is, however, far too small to meet the needs of schools, Government and commerce, but an increase in the number of University and other graduates can only take place if and when the primary schools produce better educated children for the secondary school, and the High School can produce a sufficiency of persons with 5 or more 'O' levels to permit entry to colleges of higher education abroad.

Secondary Education

The new High School completed its first year, September 1968 to July 1969. The numbers in school in December of 1968 were 774; they had fallen to 612 in December of 1969. Several of those who left were pupils who had entered at 14 or 15 who had been given the chance of a year's secondary education.

Government has continued its policy of paying a 50% transportation subsidy to pupils who attend the High School from outside

Road Town; as also a subsidy to children from Virgin Gorda or Anegada who lodge in Road Town with relatives or friends. It has been difficult, through lack of transport and of suitable overnight accommodation, for many children from Virgin Gorda to attend, but various proposals are under consideration for enriching the work of the present post-primary classes in Virgin Gorda.

Under Scheme W.I.161, a sum of \$30,510 was approved to build and equip a new classroom block at the High School. This will comprise four classrooms and a general science laboratory. It is hoped later to add an upper floor.

It was not possible to finalise arrangements for the erection of the new classroom block at the High School in time for the opening of school in September 1969. Pupils who would have normally entered then were therefore retained in the post primary department of the primary schools. The new block will be completed during 1970 so that in September 1970 there is likely to be a double intake.

Every effort is being made to improve the quality of the organisation and administration, and meetings of departmental heads have been considering questions of curricula revision.

School Co-operatives

Interest has continued. Regular visits are paid by an organiser to schools where co-operatives are functioning and efforts are being made to interest other schools in the scheme.

School Broadcasts

The School Spelling Quiz programmes have continued and been very popular. Some use was made of BBC and other recorded school broadcast material.

School Health

Visits by the Public Health Nurse and the School Dentists and his assistants continued. All primary schools and the High School have regular days for children to attend clinics, and reports on health and dental care have been satisfactory.

Adult Education

Extra-Mural Activities

A few classes have been held. The local representative has had little time from his duties as Principal of the High School, and proposals were still under discussion at the end of 1969 to consider ways and means of pooling the resources of the extra-mural and education departments to provide a considerably enlarged pro-

gramme of afternoon/evening classes, several of which are likely to prepare adults for 'O' level examinations. There has been some development in providing commercial and secretarial courses: courses in accountancy have been run by private organisations of individuals.

There is a lack of persons with time to organise and supervise these programmes or regular or ad hoc courses. Major development must await the appointment of a full-time Evening Institute Organiser.

The Public Library

The Virgin Islands Public Library was established in 1943. It moved into its present rented quarters about two years ago. The recent installation of an electricity supply, after a long delay, enabled it to revert to its normal hours and to be kept open until 6 p.m. There were staff changes during 1969. At the end of that year, Mrs Lucille Malone was acting as Librarian, assisted by two members of staff.

Two meetings of the Library Service Committee took place during 1969. The present Chairman is the Chief Education Officer, Mr G. H. R. Clough, who replaced Mr J. J. Andrews in July 1969. The death of Air Vice-Marshal R. G. Parry, C.B., D.S.O. in August of 1969, was much regretted. He had served faithfully on the committee for seventeen years.

The total bookstock at the end of 1969 was 12,617, with a circulation stock of 11,616. The very welcome increase in the Government grant to the Library, from \$1,600 to \$2,400, enabled an increase in book purchasing to \$1,300. Withdrawals of books in poor condition and losses have, however, caused a net decrease of 1,144 books. Present stock figures are: new—497; gifts—145; brought forward—13,119; withdrawals—1,144; total 12,617.

The total number of registered borrowers was 2,806, namely 1,137 adult and 1,268 juveniles at the headquarters, and 46 adults and 355 juveniles on the mobile run. The circulation was 8,066 adult and 3,995 juvenile loans at headquarters and 94 adult and 767 juvenile on the mobile runs.

The number of enquiries from readers has increased considerably. Enquiries which could not be filled locally were referred to the Caribbean Regional Library in Puerto Rico, which kindly supplied photo copies of the information requested, with a copy for the enquirer and a spare copy for the Library's West Indian file. Copies of reference material were received from the St. Thomas Public Library under the exchange programme.

Development and activities during the year have included the

setting up of a teenage collection to help teenagers in selecting books appropriate for their age; the making by the Acting Librarian of a photo album of items from the Drake's Channel Museum; the continuance of the Annual Story Hour, held in conjunction with the Education Department; and efforts through two "Amnesty Weeks" when no fines were charged, to try to recover the many books overdue.

Numbers of displays were held during the year. The Library was grateful for gifts of books from many local well-wishers; and of Christmas donation from Mr Ernest Tidswell.

School Building and Equipment

The provision planned for early 1970 for six new primary schools with far more floor space, separate classrooms and new modern equipment, should enable a more efficient programme to be planned and conducted than was possible in the often overcrowded buildings which these schools to date have occupied. There are few private fee-paying primary schools in the islands.

A very welcome addition to the number was the reopening in September of 1969 of the St. George's School by the Anglican Church catering for children from kindergarden to age 11 or 12. At the end of 1969, there were about 80 children with four teachers. Its reopening fills a gap in the present provision of efficient kindergarden and infant education. The small school run by the Seventh Day Adventists continues to give efficient service.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Road Town Drama Group

In the latter part of 1969, the Road Town Drama Group was organised through the efforts of the Community Development Officer. The Group draws members from a cross-section of the community, including the civil service, teachers, the police force, as well as private enterprise. The aim is to promote drama in the Territory with a view to forming a permanent theatre group. The group meets once a week for discussions as well as to engage in play-reading etc. chiefly of West Indian Plays. Mrs Valerie Redford, actress by profession, visited and indicated interest in coming to the British Virgin Islands to assist the Group.

Extra Mural Activities

Under the aegis of the Extra Mural Department, an annual Festival of Arts is organised in June each year. It includes works of sculpture, printing, poetry, which are displayed. The festival culminates in a great concert at the local cinema with artists from the various clubs, schools and cultural groups participating.

Social Security

Government has under consideration a social security scheme for the Territory. This will cover almost everyone between the ages of 16 and 60 years in the case of women and 65 years in the case of men resident here and everyone employed in the Territory under a contract of service. The weekly contribution will be a fixed sum for all contributors. If the insured is employed under a contract of service, his employer will pay the contribution and deduct half of the amount from the employee's wages. All contributions will be paid into a social insurance fund, which will meet the cost of pensions and administering the fund. In order to qualify for benefits under the scheme, contributors must pay a minimum of 156 contributions.

Welfare

The Community Development and Welfare Office granted small weekly or monthly subsistence allowances to fifty individuals and families, as well as provided two homes for indigents. Burial expenses were also incurred on behalf of four indigents.

Counselling service was provided in a number of cases and homes were found for children of one or two cases.

Chapter 8: Legislation

THE following Ordinances were passed by the Legislature:—

1965

The Employment of Children Prohibition Act (Amendment) Ordinance.

The Fire Brigade Ordinance.

Appropriation Ordinance.

The Pensions (Increase) Ordinance.

The Recreation Trust Ordinance.

The Public Collections (Control) Ordinance.

1966

The Cinematographs Amendment Ordinance.

The Appropriation Ordinance.

The Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance.

The Pioneer Services & Enterprises Ordinance.

The Pensions Increase (Amendment) Ordinance.

The Supplementary Appropriation (1959) Ordinance.

The Supplementary Appropriation (1960) Ordinance.

The Supplementary Appropriation (1961) Ordinance.
The Supplementary Appropriation (1962) Ordinance.
The Supplementary Appropriation (1963) Ordinance.
The Supplementary Appropriation (1964) Ordinance.
The Supplementary Appropriation (1965) Ordinance.

1967

Hotels Aid Ordinance.
Police Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Virgin Islands Constitution and Elections Amendment Ordinance.
Interpretation and General Clauses Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance.
Appropriation Ordinance.
Virgin Islands Missionary Diocese Ordinance.
Appropriation (1968) Ordinance.
Passengers Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
Trade Licences (Amendment) Ordinance.
Tonnage Duty (Amendment) Ordinance.
Interpretation and General Clauses Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Legal Tender (Adoption of United States) Currency Ordinance.
General Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance.
Liquor Licence (Amendment) Ordinance.

1968

Electricity (Extension) Local Loan Ordinance.
Legislative Council (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Ordinance.
Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Ordinance.
Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Jury Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
West Indies Associated States Supreme Court (Virgin Islands) Ordinance.
Customs Warehouse and Jetty at Road Town (Loan) Ordinance.
Marriage Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Tourist Board Ordinance.
Receivers of Wreck (Amendment) Ordinance.
Liquor Licences (Amendment) Ordinance.
United Kingdom Forces Exclusion of (Jurisdiction of Civil Courts) Ordinance.
Long Look Land Commission and Titles Ordinance.
Passenger Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
Employment Tax Ordinance.
Appropriation (1969) Ordinance.
Development Loans United Kingdom Government Ordinance.

1969

Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
Land Development (Control) Ordinance.
Immigration and Passport Ordinance.
Non-Belongers (Restrictions as to Employment or Occupation) Ordinance.
Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Customs Surcharge (Amendment) Ordinance.
Exchange Control Regulations (Amendment) Ordinance.
Hotel Accommodation (Taxation) Ordinance.
Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance.
Trust Corporation (Probate and Administration) Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Government Projects Development Loan Ordinance.
Pensions Act (Amendment) Ordinance.
Passport (Offenders) Ordinance.
Public Health Ordinance.
Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance.
Appropriation (1970) Ordinance.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the Territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of Statute Law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes, for example the British Nationality Acts 1948 and 1964 and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial Territories and extend to the Territory. Where Statute Law is silent, the Common Law of England is applicable.

From the 1st January, 1940, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands (now Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands). The Court is presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. The Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction has the power to hear and determine all matters that are heard and determined in England by the High Court of Justice.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where the sum claimed does not exceed £175 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £250.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters. There is a right of appeal to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal from a final judgement in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance, and by leave, from any interlocutory order made in the court.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of £75 in contract and £37 10s. in tort. The Territory is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61 of the Leeward Islands Act as adapted for use in the Virgin Islands by the Adaptation of Laws Regulations, 1956). Appeals from decisions of the Magistrate lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands and appeals against the decision of that Court may be made to the British Caribbean Court of Appeal. The Crown Attorney functioned also as Magistrate up to April, 1966, when a new post of Magistrate Registrar was created and filled.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases heard by all courts during 1965 and 1966 were as follows:

	<i>Supreme Court</i>		<i>Summary Court</i>		<i>Magistrate's Court</i>		<i>All Courts</i>	
	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966
<i>Civil Cases:</i>	30	48	10	11	63	46	—	—
<i>Criminal Offences:</i>								
Charged	2	4	—	—	280	245	—	—
Accused Persons	2	6	—	—	258	215	—	—
Convictions	1	3	—	—	175	162	—	—
Acquittals	1	1	—	—	75	44	—	—
Charges Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	5	9	—	—
<i>Juveniles:</i>								
Charged	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	16
Acquitted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6
<i>Summary Punishment:</i>								
Imprisonment	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	11
Fines	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	113
Otherwise disposed of	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	28
TOTAL:	36	62	10	11	856	721	181	178

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

	1967	1968	1969
1. <i>Against Lawful Authority</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	6	5	10
True Reports	6	5	10
Cases prosecuted	4	2	10
Cases convicted	4	2	6
Cases pending trial	—	2	3
Cases withdrawn	—	1	1
2. <i>Against Public Morality</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	6	5	8
True reports	3	5	7
Cases prosecuted	1	—	2
Cases convicted	1	—	1
Cases pending trial	—	2	1
3. <i>Against the Person</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	38	42	78
True reports	26	26	49
Cases prosecuted	20	13	41
Cases convicted	20	10	22
Cases withdrawn	2	1	9
4. <i>Against Property</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	91	150	202
True reports	65	109	169
Cases prosecuted	20	16	46
Cases convicted	19	14	22
Cases pending trial	2	13	2
Cases withdrawn	1	6	10
5. <i>Against Penal Code</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	1	10	3
True reports	—	9	2
Cases prosecuted	—	7	2
Cases convicted	—	7	1
6. <i>Against Local Law</i>			
Reports known to the Police . . .	610	796	1,183
True reports	215	326	654
Cases prosecuted	161	193	546
Cases convicted	158	185	420
Cases pending trial	32	64	42
Cases withdrawn	15	43	48

PRISON REPORT

1. *General*

The Prison Service of the British Virgin Islands is established under the Prison Ordinance, Cap. 166. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister.

The existing prison buildings remained without substantial alteration. They continue to be unsuitable for the detention of convicted prisoners because of the general insecurity, insufficient space and lack of minimal amenities. A new prison is urgently required, particularly in view of the altered political scene which makes it extremely difficult to transfer long-term prisoners out of the Territory.

A total of 88 persons passed through prison hands during 1969, which included 17 convicted prisoners. Comparative figures for the previous two years are set out below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Detained in Prison</i>	<i>Total Convicted</i>
1967	22	13
1968	31	11

In view of the growth of the island's population this increase cannot be regarded as alarming, but it does show that the prison is fast outgrowing its already limited space.

2. Administration and Staff

There has been no change in the basic administration of the Island's Prison Service, which continues to be under the command of the Chief of Police who is also designated Keeper of Prisons. The establishment for prison staff remained constant at one corporal and one warder.

3. Removal of Prisoners

No prisoners were moved from the prison to places of detention outside the British Virgin Islands.

4. Prison Population

The following tables show numbers of prisoners during 1969, age groups, sentences imposed and classes of offences for which prisoners were convicted.

<i>Local Prison Population</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
At 1.1.69	8	—
Received convicted during 1969	16	1
Received committed to stand trial during 1969	13	1
Received in default in 1969	2	—
Received on remand in 1969	46	1
	<u>85</u>	<u>3</u>
Convicted prisoners discharged during 1969	8	—
Committed prisoners discharged during 1969	13	2
Remanded prisoners discharged during 1969	12	—
In prison at end of 1969	52	1
	<u>85</u>	<u>3</u>
<i>Age Group of Convicted Prisoners Received during 1969</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 16 years	—	—
16 years and under 21 years	1	1
21 years and under 25 years	2	—
25 years and under 50 years	9	—
Over 50 years	4	—
	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>

Sentences of Convicted Prisoners

Under one month	4	1	
1 month and under 3 months	2	—	
3 months and under 6 months	6	—	
6 months and under 12 months	2	—	
12 months and under 18 months	1	—	
18 months and over	1	—	
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 1	(1 female deported)
<i>Offence Convicted of</i>			
Against the person	6	—	
Against property	2	—	
Non-payment of fines	2	1	
Other offences	6	—	
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 1	

5. Corporal Punishment

No corporal punishment was inflicted.

6. Juvenile Offenders

No juveniles were sentenced to imprisonment.

7. Female Prisoners

During 1969, one Antigua national was held at the prison pending deportation after she was convicted for larceny, and one female was remanded in custody on a charge of vagrancy but was acquitted by the court. Prison facilities are unsuitable for the detention of females. A separate cell is maintained for women, but toilet facilities are primitive and it is impossible to ensure that females are segregated from the rest of the prison population.

8. Remanded Prisoners

A total of 47 persons were remanded in custody during 1969 and efforts were made to segregate such persons from convicted prisoners. In practice, limited space and the communal courtyard make it impossible to maintain this segregation effectively.

9. Religion

No Prison Chaplain has been appointed, but Ministers of all denominations pay frequent visits to the prison and conduct church services.

10. Mental Patients

No mental patients are normally detained, as mental patients are sent to Antigua for treatment.

11. *Labour*

Prisoners were employed on public work throughout the year and tasks included:—

Cleaning of public toilets and drains;

Cleaning of hospital buildings;

Care of Government House;

Maintenance of Police and Prison buildings.

The shortage of space in the prison itself prevents any useful work being done. There is a need for an agricultural plot which prisoners can cultivate to produce vegetables for their own consumption.

12. *Extra Mural Labour*

No extra-mural sentences were imposed.

13. *Visits*

The Visiting Committee and the Medical Officer paid periodic visits to the Prison.

14. *Discipline and Remission*

The general conduct of the prisoners was good, apart from minor disciplinary infractions. Regulation 160 of the Prison Rules 1956, provides remission of up to one-third of a prisoner's sentence for good conduct and industry. All prisoners discharged in 1969 earned full remission.

15. *Executions*

No executions were carried out.

16. *Training of Prisoners and After-care*

There is no provision for training prisoners in trades which will fit them to lead a useful life after discharge. Existing facilities make this difficult to organise, but prisoners are encouraged to take correspondence courses at their own expense and it is hoped to establish wood-working classes if the proper tools can be obtained. There is no organisation to assist prisoners to find employment upon discharge.

17. *Finance*

The total expenditure on the Prison Service for 1969 was \$10,109.76. A comparison of the expenditure for the past four years is set out below:

	1966	1967	1968	1969
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Temporary Assistance & Staff	2,878.95	2,148.00	3,926.93	7,141.00
Provision & Necessities	1,212.67	2,314.27	3,144.96	2,837.57
Clothing, Lodging & Equipment	85.40	149.29	—	—
Prison Warder Uniform	32.50	46.90	36.00	7.75
Grants to Discharged Prisoner	24.00	21.84	4.00	7.50
Clothing & Necessities	19.30	52.90	398.14	115.94
Sanitation	56.32	51.00	—	—
Medical & Dental Services	88.70	13.00	55.00	—
TOTALS:	4,397.84	4,797.20	7,565.03	10,109.76

18. Probation

There is no Probation Service in the Territory.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY REPORT FOR 1969

General

The unprecedented capital programme which was put in hand in 1968 began to yield results early in the year and in spite of delays in the distribution construction contract load and earnings developed at such a rapid rate that earnings exceeded the estimate for the year by some 20%.

The start of 1969 saw the end of load shedding to which the consumer population was subjected during the last quarter of 1968, though reliance had to be placed on a single generating set which had been commissioned during December 1968.

During February, after prolonged installation difficulties, the second 1183 kilowatt set was placed in service and reserved capacity was finally available to the Power Station staff to carry on their work in a more efficient and normal manner.

During February/March, the contract for the extension of the distribution system virtually came to a halt, due to shortages of materials, transport difficulties and organisational problems suffered by the contractor. This hold-up left Stage II incomplete, but agreement was reached with the contractor that a "holding force" would remain to carry out minor extensions and connections of consumers in the area with lines completed but few if any consumers connected. Work did not re-start in earnest on this phase of the work till November and was nearing completion at the year's end.

The heavy load under which Mr Gibson the Acting Chief Electrical Engineer had been working since October 1968 was eased somewhat by the arrival in March of an Executive Engineer on contract and, in April, of a newly appointed Chief Electrical Engineer on secondment from the U.K. Ministry of Public Building and Works. However, at this time the department lost the service of a resident engineer provided by the consultants Preece, Cardew & Rider.

Work was started in May on the drafting of new Government Electricity Supply Rules. These were approved by the Administrator in Council and came into effect on 1st September.

A new comprehensive Electricity Ordinance had also been drafted and at the close of the year this was under consideration by the Legislative Council. This Ordinance seeks to control all aspects of the generation, distribution, sale and use of electricity either by Government or licensees; it also seeks to licence and supervise the competency of all those involved with the electricity industry in the Territory. Detailed rules to implement this Ordinance had also been drafted.

At the end of the year, the Government approved a proposal that the Ice & Cold Storage Plant should close in two years. An increase in the cost of ice, to a figure which does not require subsidiary, was also approved. This will give an opening for private industry to step in and take over from the department a service which does not readily combine with the duties of an electrical undertaking.

A scheme for training technicians for the department from school-leaving age till the attainment of technical qualifications was also approved by the Administrator in Council.

In November, a firm of accountants was commissioned to carry out a study of the department's tariffs structure and propose modifications. The report on this was awaited at the close of the year.

A new consumers accounts and billing system was introduced in November. This, at the close of the year, had overcome most of its teething troubles and shown some savings in office manpower and a reduction in monotonous routine book-work. It was well received in general by consumers.

In July a detailed survey and feasibility study was made of Virgin Gorda and a scheme to cover the extension of the Electrical Development Scheme to that Island and Little and Great Camanoe was prepared and costed. The Administrator in Council approved this in August. The planning and engineering of this phase is to be undertaken departmentally and has taken up much of the time of professional officers of the department during the latter part of the year.

At the close of the year:

1. Tenders had been invited for a further extension at the Power Station.
2. A contract was being negotiated by the consultants Messrs Preece, Cardew & Rider for an additional 1,183 kilowatt set.
3. A contract was being let by the Crown Agents for a submarine cable to Virgin Gorda and Great Camanoe.
4. Tenders had been invited for the Distribution System on Virgin Gorda.

Units Generated and Maximum Demand

The total units generated during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 were as follows (one kilowatt hour is the amount of energy taken by a demand of one kilowatt over a period of one hour):

1967	1968	1969
kWh	kWh	kWh
1,511,561	2,082,581	4,202,825

The increase in units generated shows the remarkable rise representing 103 % over 1968, which in turn shows an increase of 38 % over 1967.

Maximum Demand

The maximum demand recorded was 1035 kW which occurred during December and has increased steadily to that figure from 550 in January.

The following table shows the monthly rise in maximum demand during the year:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
550	590	600	665	700	750	800	850	875	935	925	1,035

It is of interest to note that the maximum demand for January 1968 was 295 kW and for January 1967 was 270 kW.

Load Factor

The average load factor for the year 1969 was 59.94 %, which is good when it is realized that lines in general have so far been lightly loaded with consumers connections not yet up to installed transformer capacity.

Consumers Connected

The total of consumers connected to the department's system at 31st December 1969 was 1,499. The corresponding figure for 1968 was 847 and for 1967 was 667. This gives an increase in consumer population of 652 for the year 1969 or an increase of 77 %.

Units Sold

The following table gives the units sold during the past three years:

1967	1968	1969
kWh	kWh	kWh
1,294,707	1,777,882	3,603,624

Percentage increase: 37 % over 1967 and 103 % over 1968.

Average Revenue per unit sold:

The following table gives the trend of average revenue per unit sold:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7.92	7.73	7.80	7.82	7.88	7.20	7.70	7.65	7.40	7.45	7.03	7.04

This gave an overall monthly average for the year of 7.55¢. As consumption increases, the revenue/unit rates will tend to get closer to the minimum 7¢ per unit.

Units used per consumer:

Consumption per consumer rose from 194 kWh to a maximum of 302 kWh, but the overall monthly average for the year 1969 was 248 kWh.

Generation

The installed capacity of generating plant operated by the Department now stands at 3.451 kW which is an increase of 1,183 over 1968 another 1,183 kW was commissioned only around mid-December 1968, so in fact it could be said that capacity has increased during the year by 218 %. The second set was commissioned in February 1969.

However, though the generating capacity picture has improved, it is only right to state that of the three small sets (60 kW), one has short-circuited its generator and the efficiency of the second has dropped to 60 %. The three 60 kW sets are therefore of little practical use when considering generating capacity.

Of the remaining old sets, our Petbow Plant has been awaiting spares for a year and can only be brought on load when these spares are installed. Delivery has now been made so that a further 670 kW will be available in January of 1970, which will be very helpful to cater for peak loading now approaching the capacity of one of our large sets.

Construction

Plans are well advanced for a further extension to the Plant at Long Bush which includes a further generating set of 1,183 kW and accommodation for a fourth 1,183 kW when the need arises.

It is hoped that the first of these latter sets will be commissioned by November 1970, boosting our installed capacity—neglecting the smaller sets—to 4,454 kW.

Maximum Demand

The maximum demand figures for the year have on average doubled over the similar period of 1968. The mean average now stands at 600 kW as against 290 kW for 1968.

Peak loading continued to be during the evening, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., but whereas in 1968 a definite peak was reached at 7 p.m. each night, 1969 showed a definite flattening out of the curve over the period from 7 to 8 p.m.

The minimum loading period continued to be between 12 midnight and 6 a.m. Although this demand is on a par with peak loading during 1968, its mean average is 160 kW below the overall mean average for the day and at 500 kW means that our larger sets are working in their less efficient range. As this low-loading spans a quarter of the day, it has a very depressing effect on our load factor.

Spares

Delivery of spares and essential materials for repairs continues to be a problem and to circumvent this to some extent, a large order was placed covering a 2–3 year period for these spares during 1969. However, deliveries have not been made to date so that the bulk of the debit will fall to the budget item during 1970. This quantity should give us more freedom, but care will have to be taken to ensure that minimum stocks, particularly of fastmoving items, be kept up to date; otherwise failure of one set, with our increasing load, could cause serious difficulties in supply.

Ice Plant

The Cold Storage portion of this section was improved during the latter half of 1968 and following a prolonged period during which installation and running problems were encountered, necessitating the recall of the erection engineer, this portion is now working well.

The ice-making portion is reaching, or has reached, the end of its useful life and it is only by conscientious hard work on the part of staff that the output of ice has been maintained at its present high level.

The normal capacity of this unit is approximately 25 tons per month and in spite of difficulties encountered, this capacity has been exceeded over the year by 21.4% monthly. In spite of this high production, the revenue from all sources on operation alone,

neglecting depreciation etc., shows a balance of \$5,700 on the year's working.

Transmission

13,200 volts system.

At the start of the year, there were $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles of overhead line and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of underground cable in commission. 28 single and 3 phase transformers, giving a total capacity of 1,200 kW, were energized. By the end of the year, a further 6 miles of normal overhead line and 1,550 yards of special insulated catenary cable and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of underground cable had been installed and 26 single and 3 phase transformers to a total capacity of 835 kW had been installed and energized.

The overhead catenary cable on Jose Hill was damaged in July as a result of insufficient control in blasting of rocks in connection with road renovation. The affected section of this line was replaced by normal uninsulated overhead construction.

A number of direct lightning strikes were experienced in the year, some of these resulting in extensive damage. Protection is being improved in an effort to reduce damage to a minimum. Outages have lasted for as much as 48 hours in some instances.

330 volts system.

At the start of the year some $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of overhead line and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles of underground cable were in commission with 25 transformers with a total capacity of 1,100 kW in use.

In November and December the load of 6 transformers was transferred to the 13.2 kV system and at the year's end, the removal of the redundant 3.3 kV line was in hand. This leaves 12 transformers on 3 miles of overhead line and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of underground cable still to be connected to the 13.2 kV network.

Distribution

The distribution system is entirely above ground and is at 120/208 volts. The number of consumers on 1st January was 858 and on 31st December this had increased to 1,501. Some $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of distribution mains were erected in the year. The system being extended to the following main areas:

Cane Garden Bay, Harrigans, Frenchmans Cay, Beef Island, Belmont, Round Hill, Penn, Freshwater Pond, Zion Hill, Lower and Upper Towers, Paraquita, Sophie Bay, Hodges Creek.

The following heavy load consumers have been connected to the system:—

Bottlers Ltd., Island Paints Ltd., Caribbean Sailing Yachts, Cable & Wireless, Chalwell and Treasure Isle Hotel.

Street Lighting

There are 140 street lightings installed and there was no increase during the year. A number of time switches have been replaced and extensive replacement is planned for 1970.

Long Term Policy

It is planned to undertake Phase III of the Electricity Development Scheme in 1970; this includes:

1. A further extension of the Power Station.
2. The installation of a further 1,183 kW diesel alternator with provision for a further similar set in 1973/75 and the installation of a new 18 panel high tension switch board.
3. The completion of the High Tension and low voltage system on Tortola with the exception of Wickhams Cay.

Phase III (A) covers the high tension and low voltage system on Wickhams Cay; this should be started in 1970 and completed in 1971.

Phase IV covers the provision of a supply to Virgin Gorda and Little and Great Camanoe by means of submarine cables from Spratt Point Beef Island to Valley Trunk Bay on Virgin Gorda and from a bay adjacent to Lloyds Pond on the north east extremity of Tortola via Little and Great Camanoe to Cassey Bay on Virgin Gorda, together with a high tension network at 13.2 kV throughout Virgin Gorda and provision for some 300 consumers including the Little Dix Bay Hotel. Work on this phase should commence in February 1970 and be completed by May 1971.

A further 1,183 kW alternator will be required, probably some time between 1973 and 1975, and about this time consideration will have to be given to the provision of a new and considerably larger power station, possibly at East End, positioned in association with a P.W.D. desalination plant. The requirement for this large power station and the date for its completion will depend upon the rate of growth of the electricity load.

Water

There are no rivers in the Territory. The only piped water is in the capital, Road Town. The remainder of the population of Tortola and the other islands depend upon shallow wells and/or individual roof catchments and storage tanks.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. In 1969 about 1,500 vehicles were registered as compared with 795 in 1967 and 627 in 1966.

On 12th April, 1969, the newly reconstructed Beef Island Airfield was officially declared open. The estimated cost of reconstruction was over \$US 500,000, of which \$US 325,317 was provided by Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and \$US 144,000 by the proceeds of an Exchequer loan; the balance will be met from the proceeds of local loan funds. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200 over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building and for further extension of the runway to 5,000 feet. Anegada airfield was officially opened on 19th July, 1969. The runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommodating aircraft of 12,500 pounds weight. Construction was carried out by the Development Corporation of Anegada in accordance with an agreement with the Territory's Government for the development of the island. There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

Regular daily air services are operated by Leeward Islands Air Transport, Prinair, All-Island Air and Antilles Airboats. The Territory is also served by several smaller charter airlines which fly to most of the islands in the area.

A new waterfront jetty in Road Town was constructed by the British Virgin Islands Construction Company, a subsidiary of Robert Gray Ltd., with headquarters in Bermuda. At the end of 1969, plans were announced to start construction of a new deep-water harbour near Pasea Estate in Tortola, to provide deep-water docking for ocean-going ships. In 1969, The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). There is also a hydrofoil service to Puerto Rico and St. Thomas (United States Virgin Islands). Direct Booker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola.

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continues to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 900 telephones in use throughout the Territory and there is also a telex service.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THE *Island Sun*, published weekly, is the only local newspaper. There is a commercial radio station (ZBVI) located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. In 1968 the station was purchased by a Bermudian group. The station operates at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean. In January 1969, the BVI Government issued a licence to Dukane, West Indies Ltd. to install and operate a television. This station was not constructed during the period under review.

There is no local production or distribution of films. A commercial cinema, the Carib Cinema in Road Town, shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Centre.

The Government issues News Releases informing the press, radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact Sheets and other hand-outs are also available to persons desiring information about the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, contain over forty British islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high, throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipitiously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably among the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a pleasant subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87°F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *Croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of a most interesting and unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many

species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of great scientific interest, this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small but increasing number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20 per cent of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the territory and its environs. A slightly higher percentage live in East End/Long Look the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Two of these, Guana Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry with a first-class beef breed, the Nellthrop.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States

Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' national charm as a new resource. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various colourful islands to each other and the crystal sea surrounding them, provide a setting that will excite the most demanding world traveller. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a paradise for all saltwater boating and fishing enthusiasts. The unique granite rock formation at the southern tip of Virgin Gorda is truly remarkable and the area known as "The Baths" is quite spectacular in its exciting rugged beauty. The fragment of xerophytic rain forest on Mount Sage has no counterpart in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico, and there are beautiful beaches on most of the 40 islands. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

COMMUNICATIONS

Great progress was made in the field of communications in the period under review. More and better roads and improved air and sea facilities will considerably help the expansion of tourism.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgenes in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel

Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lbs. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, August 1st, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of 6 non-elected members—three ex-officio and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was revived in 1950. On the 1st July 1956, the Leeward Islands Colony was defederated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a colony. The Colony of the Virgin Islands was then administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands by an Administrator. On 31st December, 1959, the office of Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished and the Administrator became Her Majesty's Representative in the colony, directly responsible to the Colonial Office in London.

Her Majesty The Queen visited the British Virgin Islands on the 23rd February 1966. Since then the 23rd February has been a public holiday to commemorate the Queen's visit. In October of 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to drawing up a new constitution for the Territory, based on the report of a constitutional commissioner (Miss Mary Proudfoot).

In April of 1967, a semi-ministerial form of government came into effect, under the terms of the new Constitution. The Administrator retained his responsibilities for defence and internal security, external affairs, the administration of the courts and the public service, but was required to seek the advice of Executive Council on nearly all matters.

Following are some of the important dates in the Territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe Hurricane.
- 1838 Abolition of slavery.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature reconstituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December 1959 and the Administrator became The Queen's Representative.
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March 1967, bringing ministerial government into effect.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I., No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz.2. chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967. The new constitution came into effect in April 1967 and provides for the first time for a ministerial system. The Administrator remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Administrator as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney-General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney-General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visited the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

A General Election was held on 14th April, 1967 and the United Party secured four seats, the Democratic Party two seats and the People's Own Party one seat. The Government was constituted as follows:—

Administrator: J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator (Chairman)

Attorney-General (ex-officio):

Financial Secretary (ex-officio):

Chief Minister:

*Minister for Natural Resources &
Public Health:*

*Minister for Communication, Works
& Industry:*

Hon. N. Jacobs

Hon. C. B. Romney, M.A.

Hon. H. L. Stoutt

Hon. I. Dawson

Hon. T. B. Lettsome

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Speaker: Hon. H. O. Creque, O.B.E.

Attorney-General (ex-officio)

Financial Secretary (ex-officio)

Nominated Member: Hon. J. R. O'Neal, O.B.E.

Elected Members: Hon. H. L. Stoutt; Hon. I. Dawson; Hon. T. B. Lettsome; Dr the Hon. Q. W. Osborne; Hon. I. G. Fonseca; Hon. H. R. O'Neal; Hon. E. L. Smith.

Local Government

There was no local government organisation in the Territory and little or no interest was shown in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the Territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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PART I

General Review 1970

ADMINISTRATION

THE affairs of the Territory were administered during 1970 by Mr J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E., who held the post of Administrator since 14th April, 1967. In order to assist in the Administrative process, the post of Chief Secretary was created and filled in September, 1969, by Mr A. E. Penn, who assumed certain subjects falling within the general responsibility of the Administrator, under the Constitution.

POLITICAL

The Constitution of the Territory which was introduced in April, 1967 providing for the first time for the Ministerial system of Government, remained in full force and effect throughout 1970. The Administrator continued to be responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the Administration of the Courts and Finance, and to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Administrator as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) the Chief Minister appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Much of the time of the Legislative Council was taken up with the necessary updating of the late nineteenth century legislation and in dealing with the inevitable problems arising from the phenomenal rate of economic growth during recent years and the consequent cultural and social development.

INTER VIRGIN ISLANDS RELATIONSHIPS

Relations between the British and American Virgin Islands continued to be cordial. There were no meetings of the Inter-Virgin Islands Conference during the period under review but visits were exchanged between the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Administrator of the British Virgin Islands. Public interest has been aroused recently about the desirability of resuscitating the Inter-Virgin Islands conference and there is strong feeling in Government circles in the British and American Virgin Islands that these meetings be resumed at a time and place to be mutually agreed upon.

THE ECONOMY

It could well be said that too much happened too quickly in the boom years of 1967–1969 and that the relative slowdown in all fields was a much needed pause for reassessing the potentialities and problems which faced the Territory in that stage of economic and constitutional development. Before tourism and its attendant benefits and difficulties came to the British Virgin Islands in 1967 the inhabitants were engaged largely in subsistent production of livestock and agriculture, the fishing industry, house building and the provision of public services. Some 10% of the population was employed in the United States Virgin Islands.

In 1967 the greater degree of self-government resulting from the introduction of a ministerial system, elected under the new Constitution, encouraged investment and a considerable amount of capital from the United States and Britain found its way to the British Virgin Islands in that year, and significant progress resulted in the construction industry. There was full employment and a stream of immigrant workers from other Caribbean islands began to fill the shortage of local labour. The task of improving the infrastructure of the Territory began in earnest. The first phase of the electricity scheme was completed by the installation of a new generating plant in Road Town and before the end of 1967 the second phase of carrying electricity to other parts of Tortola was started. The telephone system was improved and radio telephone communication to the other islands was installed. Early in 1967 the Government signed agreements with a commercial developer to provide a tourist centre on the island of Anegada including an airfield, a wharf and other public facilities, a hotel and shopping centre; and for the development of the Wickhams Cay area for residential and commercial use. This involved reclamation of land and new roads to relieve traffic congestion in Road Town.

The economy of the British Virgin Islands is estimated to have grown at the average rate of 20% per annum over the period 1966–1968 and 60% in 1969 as a result of tourism and the growth of the construction and related industries. Agriculture declined but other sectors of the economy grew significantly. A fourth bank was opened in the Territory in 1968 and local revenue and imports in 1968 trebled those in 1963.

The Territory's growth rate between 1955 and 1969 was considered to be the highest in the Caribbean and a major reason for it was the favourable treatment by the British Government in making aid available to the Territory and in allowing sterling investors to avoid the dollar premium. The favourable tax structure in the Territory and the overspill to the British Virgin Islands of the increasing United States tourist market were other important factors. The prognosis was good provided that tourism maintained its expansion rate and there was continued economic and political stability in the Caribbean.

But 1970 brought an unexpected recession in tourism in the Caribbean and a decline in long term bank financing which particularly affected the construction industries, a major source of employment. Development slowed down considerably. Many expatriate entrepreneurs left the Territory and immigration figures fell. The building of hotels and tourist enterprises was stopped. Money was in short supply, the cost of living rose and there was no longer full employment. The rate of economic growth was reduced to 17%. Disastrous floods in the Autumn of 1970 washed away much of the expensively built roads. The unfortunate social effects of the too rapid growth rate on the small community in 1966–1969 were instanced in the Government being forced, in the interests of the British Virgin Islanders, to decide to cancel by negotiation the agreements with the developer of Anegada and Wickhams Cay, and to take over the development projects as government controlled projects. This understandably deterred a number of other developers from investing in the Territory. They preferred to wait and see the effect of the Wickhams Cay and Anegada negotiations on the economy.

In spite of all these set-backs, much was achieved in 1970, nevertheless, particularly in the fields of the social services, public utilities and communications. Schools were rebuilt, enlarged and given additional facilities.

Improvements in the medical services included the appointment of more doctors and trained nurses, new hospital wards and the opening of a central public health clinic. Work on the airport and the deep water berth progressed. Roads, water supplies, drainage and sewage

disposal were all improved during the year and the completion of the electricity extension scheme was in sight.

Efforts at promoting tourism by the Tourist Board continued unabated. The largest modern resort is Little Dix Bay Hotel on Virgin Gorda with 132 beds, but the Territory as a whole offers a total of 500 beds in hotels and guest houses. The qualities of quiet, natural beauty and very good fishing and sailing brought an increasing number of people wanting to build homes in the islands so that some lands have changed hands at more than \$20,000 an acre. To regulate a situation where expatriates expressed interest in purchasing large plots of land often for purely speculative purposes the scope of the Aliens Land Holding Regulations was widened, and those who are allowed to buy land have to commit themselves to develop it within a reasonable period.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Until recently it was generally believed by the inhabitants that they can best help their native land by leaving it. People acted on that belief; a whole way of life developed around this urge to migrate, and this has resulted in the very slow population growth within the past few years. The effect of this migration is that a fair proportion of the money in circulation is generated by remittances from relatives of local residents living abroad, who are concerned above all else about maintaining their identity as Virgin Islanders. The events of 1970 and former years have not brought about any fundamental changes in attitudes or values. Physically the islands have changed; most of the amenities one associates with life in a modern community are now available, and to that extent the standard of life has improved. A subsistence agriculture has changed to tourism and for the average Virgin Islander his means of earning a living has changed but not the nature of his economic role. A large proportion of British Virgin Islanders are landowners and a family that does not own 2 acres of land is rare. To them the land has become more than the basic means of production; it is a symbol of their independence and the key to that independence. No real understanding of recent events in this Territory is possible unless the role that land plays in the psychology of the Virgin Islander is firmly grasped. Two such events in particular which occurred in 1970 should be seen against this background. Firstly the enquiry into the Wickhams Cay and Anegada Agreements following protests concerning land alienation and secondly the amendment of the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act which has been amended to extend to Commonwealth Citizens other than persons deemed to belong to the Territory. The principal

provision of the Act is that those persons to whom it applies may not own land in the Territory, neither leasehold or freehold, or as mortgagers or trustees, without first having obtained a licence. This represented an honest attempt by government to take steps to protect the essential character of the British Virgin Islands way of life against external pressures that were building up as a result of economic changes. The newcomer to the islands who obtains a licence and buys a piece of land may now do so without fear of resentment by local residents who feel that their land is being taken over. In a Territory with a coloured population, where the economy revolves around the tourist industry, where every household has at least one member resident in the continental United States and another in the American Virgin Islands it would be surprising if there were no local echoes resulting from the great racial awakening of a section of the American population. There certainly is, but in these islands there is no Black Power Movement as such and any group consciousness of colour expresses itself in a desire to maintain and preserve what the islanders have (ownership of land, effective control of their institutions and of the economic life of the Territory) rather than in aggression.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The number of pensionable and contract Civil Servants increased during the period under review from 59 in 1969 to 228 in 1970.

The implementation in 1966 of the review of Civil Service salaries carried out by A. G. H. Gardner-Brown failed to induce enough interest among British Virgin Islanders for sufficient numbers to seek employment in the Public Service. Salary levels remain inadequate compared with those in operation in business and commerce. A further review of the salaries and conditions of service of the B.V.I. Civil Service was successfully completed in October, 1968 by F. N. M. Pusinelli and revised emoluments were made payable from 1st January, 1969.

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments:

Birthday Honours, 1970

Mr McWelling Todman, O.B.E.

Mr Bregado Flax, M.B.E.

Mr G. Cecil Rymer, M.B.E.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the British Virgin Islands was 7,340 in 1960, as recorded by the census taken that year, distributed as follows:

Tortola	6,262
Virgin Gorda	562
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	173
Other Islands	74
Total	<hr/> 7,340 <hr/>

Preliminary figures for the 1970 census are as follows:

Tortola	8,939
Virgin Gorda	1,025
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	124
Other Islands	106
Total	<hr/> 10,463 <hr/>

A breakdown of the figure for Tortola in 1970 is as follows:

Road Town	2,183
East End—Long Look	1,847
The rest	4,909
Total	<hr/> 8,939 <hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour

ORGANISATION

UNSKILLED, semi-skilled and a limited amount of skilled labour is available in the Territory. A certain amount of immigrant labour is permitted, providing the following requirements are met:

- (1) There is no British Virgin Islander available for the particular job;
- (2) Good clean police records are produced;
- (3) Good health certificates are produced;
- (4) Return passage to the worker's home is guaranteed by the employer or the employee.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance (No. 1 of 1953) allows a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriates, as Government is aware that certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally and therefore expatriates must fill them until such time as local Virgin Islanders are trained. In 1970, a total of 2,777 work permits and 87 permits to carry on business were issued to expatriates.

There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the Territory and the Act (No. 21 of 1937) Section 2 states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Administrator deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Administrator may deem fit.

The minimum wage rates currently paid by the Government of the British Virgin Islands for an eight hour day are as follows:

Unskilled from 6-00 dollars to 8-00 dollars

Skilled from 9-00 dollars to 12-00 dollars

However, contractors and other private employers pay higher rates so as to attract the best workmen. They pay from 8-00 dollars to 10-00 dollars for unskilled and from 12-00 dollars to 16-00 dollars and in a few cases 18-00 for skilled workers.

The main sources of employment are to be found in: The Public Service, Education, Construction and Engineering, Commercial services and Distribution, Hotel, Transport and Fishing industries, Banks and the manufacturing industry. Unemployment figures in 1970 averaged 300, one tenth of whom were British Virgin Islanders and nine tenths of persons from other Caribbean Islands.

The need to implement an industrial training scheme to mobilise and train young persons is recognised by Government if the growing demands for technical workers are to be supplied from local sources. In the absence of Government training centres, the training of apprentices and adult workers remains in the hands of private industry.

At present there are no Trade Unions in the B.V.I. Under the Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950) a Labour Commissioner was appointed whose duty consists in ensuring that laws affecting labour

are duly enforced including the settlement of Labour Disputes and seeing that workmen work under sanitary conditions and that they are properly paid under the existing wage rates. 86 labour disputes were recorded in 1970. Unemployment benefits do not exist, but a Social Security Scheme is planned. There is legislation covering Workmen's Compensation in the event of injury sustained at work. During 1970 six industrial accidents were reported and the total compensation claims amounts to \$4,981.11. No case of occupational disease was reported.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

UP to the outbreak of the Second World War the B.V.I. boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finances of the B.V.I.

During the period 1956-1960 local revenue never exceeded 46% of the budget and in those years rose only from \$164,000 to \$180,000. Grants-in-aid fluctuated between 54% and 71% of total expenditure, reaching a peak in 1961. While there was an upward trend in revenue, a steep rise in expenditure to improve and increase services created a fiscal situation in which deficit spending would apparently always be the rule.

During the period 1967-1969 receipts from local revenue increased progressively. Although the Territory experienced spectacular economic growth, Government could not meet its recurrent commitments from its own revenues. Despite Devaluation in 1967 and the pressure which was placed on Britain's finances and her entire monetary system, Grant-in-Aid figures for 1967 showed some increase over 1966. This was, however, effectively reduced in 1968.

Government's recurrent expenditure also showed a steady increase, due mainly to the fact that 1967 was the year of Constitutional changes which brought about the introduction of the Ministerial system and also in view of the general increase in the level of economic activity in the Territory, it was necessary for certain minor tax alterations to be effected to earn extra funds needed

to meet the recurrent budget. No major revision of the fiscal structure was considered at the time as the Report of the newly appointed Fiscal Review Committee was awaited. The division of the budget between local revenue and grants-in-aid over the years 1967 to 1970 is as follows:

	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$	1970 \$
Local Revenue.	1,220,000	1,737,516	2,145,926	3,141,277
Grants-in-Aid .	345,000	266,400	210,000	Nil (planned)

The infrastructure of the Territory was in urgent need of an infusion of capital so that its development could keep pace with the rapidly growing development in the private sector.

Expenditure for 1967 to 1970 were as follows:

	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$	1970 \$
Recurrent Expenditure .	1,418,429	1,726,274	2,542,314	3,450,285
Capital Expenditure .	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044	3,335,954
Total	2,075,559	3,176,465	3,672,358	6,786,239

In 1970, there was a considerable increase in local revenue and import duties continued to be the major source of income. Recurrent expenditure however also increased steadily as a result of increased economic activity and exceeded local revenue by \$306,008. Development aid and local loans replaced grants-in-aid, External Loans, Overseas Service Aid and C.D. & W. Aid.

TAXATION

Towards the end of 1967 Government appointed a Committee to review the fiscal structure of the Territory and to make recommendations. The Committee submitted its report to Government in July, 1968 and its recommendations were studied by the B.V.I. Government and the Government of the United Kingdom.

Among the proposals which were accepted by Government were changes in Income Tax—Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% on total income and an additional 12% is proposed after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the Territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and

Switzerland. In 1970 negotiations were in progress for the revision of the treaty with the U.K. Arrangements also exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief. Property taxes were charged during 1970 to differentiate between expatriate and indigenous owners. The annual rates were increased for all taxpayers and are now:

<i>Land Tax</i>	<i>Expatriate Owners</i>	<i>Indigenous Owners</i>
First acre or part acre	\$20	\$3
Subsequent acre or part acre	\$10	\$1
House Tax	1½% on notional annual value	

Details of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1967–1970 are as follows:

REVENUE

	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customs & Excise	445,799	687,700	946,917	1,115,372
Harbour & Wharf Dues	9,176	19,500	19,310	24,077
Taxes & Licences	156,978	228,733	513,066	834,252
Fines & Forfeitures	4,054	4,000	5,774	14,228
Govt. Depts & Services	202,778	80,725	436,368	185,792
Post Office	134,615	145,734	171,087	278,911
Rent of Govt. Property	24,158	21,800	40,103	62,413
Interest	6,285	6,300	5,276	21,641
Miscellaneous	41,992	7,800	8,025	158,355
Land Sales	2,946	904	—	—
Other Sources (incl. loan funds)	187,801	534,320	—	—
Electricity	—	—	—	446,236
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE:	1,219,562	1,737,516	2,145,926	3,141,277
From United Kingdom				
Grant-in-Aid (Recurrent)	334,555	266,400	210,000	—
C.D. & W. Schemes	199,604	522,297	397,968	—
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	24,612	32,248	34,033	—
Grant-in-Aid (Capital)	225,445	—	—	—
Development Aid	—	—	—	1,247,366
Local Loan	—	—	—	1,963,799
	2,013,778	2,558,461	2,960,334	6,352,442

EXPENDITURE

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Administration . . .	86,868	93,589	182,259	258,032
Legal & Judicial . . .	28,358	35,018	47,504	70,660
Police & Fire Brigade . . .	68,322	94,734	183,514	200,664
Finance . . .	161,497	210,955	370,437	726,711
Audit . . .	8,355	16,991	7,754	17,329
Chief Minister's Office . . .	26,428	67,291	125,261	127,586
Legislature . . .	26,856	20,627	32,360	30,769
Education . . .	254,810	302,837	524,460	615,411
Ministry of Natural Resources . . .	75,185	91,138	111,011	139,314
Public Health . . .	151,430	173,960	262,732	444,894
Miscellaneous . . .	142,963	—	—	—
Ministry of Communications Works & Industry . . .	285,196	300,159	449,714	108,638
Electricity Department . . .	63,085	278,447	182,828	284,553
Overseas Service Aid Scheme . . .	39,078	40,528	62,480	—
Public Works . . .	—	—	Nil	425,724
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE . . .	1,418,431	1,726,274	2,542,314	3,450,285
Capital Expenditure . . .	657,130	1,450,191	1,130,044	3,335,954
TOTAL . . .	2,075,561	3,176,465	3,672,358	6,786,239

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Territory is in a unique currency position, sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the Territory is part of the sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been de facto currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself had no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. Special regulations govern the conversion of sterling area currencies into dollars for use in the Territory but every assistance is given to genuine investors to facilitate the conversion of sterling. Applications for such conversions must be made to the Administrator who forwards recommended applications to the United Kingdom Exchange Control Authorities for approval. Sterling area conversions which gain such approval may be carried out without payment of the investment dollar premium. Such conversions in 1969 totalled \$6.7 m. In 1970 they amounted to \$2.6 m.

Visitors from the sterling area may cash up to £250 in travellers cheques per month or on each visit to the Territory. They may not, however, operate dollar bank accounts without Exchange Control Approval. There are now four commercial banks in the Territory: the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May, 1961), Barclays Bank, D.C.O. (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969) and the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968). The following table shows the growth of advances and deposits in these banks since 1967:

Commercial Banks—Advances and Deposits 1967–1970

(figures in \$000)

	<i>End 1967</i>	<i>End 1968</i>	<i>End 1969</i>	<i>End 1970</i>
Total Deposits . . .	4,963	8,406	20,026	25,259
Total Advances . . .	3,698	8,977	17,481	20,949

The majority of the advances are in respect of Conventional Mortgage loans and Personal loans, although loans for construction purposes, commercial bridging finance and loans to Government showed substantial increase over the period 1967–1969. During 1970 there was a progressive reduction in long-term financing by the Banks. Interest rates on advances are normally between 1% and 2½% above the Federal Reserve Rate in the United States of America.

Chapter 5: Commerce

IN spite of a preferential tariff for imports from Commonwealth countries, the trade of the Territory is carried on principally with the United States of America and its Caribbean possessions, exports being confined almost entirely to the United States Virgin Islands. However, the introduction of direct shipping services with the U.K. 1968 and certain Eastern Caribbean Countries in 1969, and the effect of devaluation of sterling in 1967, have effected an increase in the proportion of imports originating in Commonwealth countries and the United Kingdom at a time when imports have grown rapidly. The direction of trade was as table on facing page (p. 15).

The Territory continued to have a substantial and increasing adverse trade balance, offset by tourists receipts, capital inflows, remittances of British Virgin Islanders working abroad, earnings of trading sloops and by grants from British funds in the form of Grants-in-Aid of Administration and Colonial Development and Welfare

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports \$000</i>				<i>Exports \$000</i>			
	1966	1967	1968	1969	1966	1967	1968	1969
U.S.A., Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands .	2,003	2,583	4,416	4,285	157	73	116	47
U.K.	779	743	1,377	1,870	—	1	—	—
Leeward Islands . . .	17	14	37	35	—	2	—	—
Other Commonwealth Countries . . .	201	223	313	1,022	—	—	—	2
Other Foreign Countries . . .	143	327	456	887	—	11	29	1
TOTALS: . . .	3,143	3,890	6,599	8,099	157	87	145	50

grants. Imports to the Territory for 1970 were increased to \$10,223,574 while exports dropped again to \$42,608. The following table shows an analysis of the principal imported items:

1970 Principal Imports

	<i>Total Value Imports</i>	<i>Imports From U.K.</i>	<i>U.K. % of Total Imports</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Machinery & Accessories . . .	229,691	50,958	22.17
Machinery other	417,380	154,150	36.93
Electronic Goods & Apparatus . . .	75,706	64,536	85.52
Reinforcing Iron	245,938	58,315	23.17
Trucks and Jeeps.	401,743	224,180	55.72
Wood & Timber— (Manufactured)	292,648	36,096	12.28
Motor Cars	330,183	90,085	27.27
Implements & Tools	49,388	13,265	26.53

Facilities for the handling of ocean going vessels of up to 600 ft. were being constructed throughout 1970 at an area opposite Purcell Village while freighters continued to anchor midway in the harbour and discharge cargo by means of a lighterage service. The vessels which ply regularly to Tortola are from the Booker Line, sailing from Liverpool, The Royal Netherlands Dutch Line (K.N.S.M.), sailing from Europe, and Atlantic and Florida Lines from the United States of America. When the deep-water harbour project is completed, the present facilities will be available exclusively for the use of passenger traffic.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS OF
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1970**

	\$
(a) <i>Total Imports</i>	10,223,574
(b) <i>Total Exports</i>	42,608
(c) <i>Total Re-Exports</i>	22,720
(d) <i>Summary of Imports</i>	
United Kingdom	2,284,958
Canada	82,036
Leeward Islands	13,327
Windward Islands	5,913
Other British Countries	897,027
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	5,165,863
Other Foreign Countries	1,774,451
(e) <i>Summary of Exports</i>	
United Kingdom	Nil
Canada	Nil
Leeward Islands	70
Windward Islands	Nil
Other British Countries	Nil
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	41,488
Other Foreign Countries	1,050
Total	42,608
<hr/>	
(f) <i>Summary of Re-Exports</i>	
United Kingdom	Nil
Canada	Nil
Leeward Islands	Nil
Windward Islands	Nil
Other British Countries	Nil
United States of America, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands	22,720
Other Foreign Countries	Nil
Total	22,720

FOREIGN TABLE

Year	F.O.B.	Imports % Increase	Exports F.O.B.	Re-Exports F.O.B.	Balance
1966	3,143	6.1	157	67	-2,919
1967	3,890	23.8	88	12	-3,790
1968	6,599	69.6	145	9	-6,445
1969	8,099	22.7	50	13	-8,036
1970	10,224	21.1	43	23	-10,158

VALUE OF IMPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES INTO
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	£	£	£	£	£
Wheaten Flour	39,882.08	45,121.83	48,002.62	55,047.64	67,025.33
Cornmeal (Maize)	2,641.81	3,158.88	2,479.50	1,837.08	1,540.07
Rice	20,627.14	25,166.46	65,162.44	33,685.04	46,301.34
Bread & Biscuits	23,165.11	27,086.37	29,116.38	47,434.54	44,024.15
Butter & Substitutes	18,932.50	23,183.57	25,122.21	27,983.04	37,849.37
Edible Oils	15,184.22	19,912.22	27,641.09	33,459.93	38,057.31
Lards & Substitutes	6,853.34	6,002.27	5,440.83	8,391.36	9,902.23
Preserved Milks	50,213.01	59,719.31	67,587.98	96,237.17	132,714.26
Cheese	15,315.72	15,912.25	19,087.63	24,847.12	29,645.23
Preserved Fish	17,880.81	20,336.72	22,234.98	38,053.37	38,374.63
Fruit & Vegetables	35,194.69	50,530.52	41,332.69	54,453.45	60,811.95
Preserved Meat	75,003.29	76,158.09	63,638.74	103,363.15	96,229.25
Coffee	5,235.29	11,090.07	13,179.95	22,526.41	25,086.33
Tea	1,721.60	1,433.16	1,386.16	3,860.96	3,238.01
Cocoa	2,931.37	3,557.92	4,396.82	4,376.15	4,046.74
Sugar	37,063.63	42,319.75	37,489.29	54,709.43	51,961.78
Animal Feeding Stuff	35,909.23	33,423.38	37,234.13	33,960.68	42,475.26

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial

The main industry of the British Virgin Islands is tourism and its constituent services such as hotels, guest-houses, restaurants, gift shops, clubs, marinas, motor launches, yachts, aircraft, motor vehicles and, to a lesser extent, riding animals, such as horses and donkeys. There is a considerable amount of construction in progress in the form of hotels, guest-houses and residence in the private sector, while the construction of roads, extension of electricity and water supply are being undertaken by Government.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Most Virgin Islanders own land, and those who farm it do so individually or as a family venture. A number of self-employed men throughout the Territory engage in fishing, both for home consumption and export to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands. Agriculture is, however, generally declining.

Agricultural Department

The total expenditure of the Department for 1970 was \$63,950, a substantial increase over the 1969 figure of \$29,409.

Due to the departure of the Livestock Officer late in 1967, the two divisions of the Department, namely Livestock and Crops Divisions, have since been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Agriculture. The staff includes four agricultural officers, one forestry officer and two clerks.

The activities of the Department continue to include: the provision of planting material for crop husbandry, the improvement and extension of pastures, the protection of forest and conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a Loan Scheme, and the fostering of livestock production by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1970 was 62.02 inches, as compared with 67.11 inches in 1969. The heaviest showers were experienced from October to December. The highest daily rainfall recorded was 5.40 inches on the 7th October.

During 1970, rainfall was considered to be both evenly distributed as well as being a generous supply. This has had an obvious effect on the local water supply within the Territory.

A statement of monthly rainfall figures of the years 1961–1970 as recorded at the Agricultural Station, is set out at the end of this chapter.

Agricultural Production

Sugar Cane: The production of sugar cane is steadily declining. The small area which is left is used for both chewing and rum manufacturing.

Limes: The production of limes is being encouraged. There is a growing demand for limes, both locally and in the export market; and prices paid can be said to be good. During 1970 125 barrels, as compared with 163 barrels in 1969 were produced.

Coconuts: There was a continued decrease in the export of coconuts because of local consumption.

Bananas: The export of bananas showed an increase during 1970; 1,974 bunches were exported as compared with 838 bunches in 1969. The local market was adequately supplied throughout the year.

Food Crops: Because of good weather conditions and improved marketing opportunities the production of food crops in 1970 was increased.

Animal Husbandry

General: The Department's activities continued at a high standard during 1970. All stock which showed good breeding potential were sold to farmers and the undesirable to butchers. The breeding programme in 1970 was aimed towards further development of the Red Poll.

Production: The production of livestock has been maintained at a high level. The local market was fully supplied. The production of sheep was steadily increased. There are three privately owned poultry farms and every effort is made to increase poultry farming throughout the Territory.

Health: There are eleven Dipping Vats in the Territory and the livestock in general remained satisfactory in 1970.

Exports: The export of livestock continued, both to St Thomas and to the French West Indies. The following tables show the analysis of

livestock export according to type and sex. The decrease in the export of cattle results from a higher local consumption.

Prices ranged from 20–25¢ per lb. liveweight for cattle, 40–50¢ per lb. for sheep and 28–33¢ per lb. for pigs.

TABLE I
Exports 1968–1970

<i>Species</i>	<i>St Thomas</i>			<i>French West Indies</i>			<i>Total Exports</i>		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Cattle .	139	61	3	295	44	6	434	105	9
Sheep .	135	6	139	—	—	—	135	6	139
Goats .	37	3	15	—	—	—	37	3	15
Swine .	106	27	—	—	—	—	106	27	—
	417	97	157	295	44	6	712	141	163

TABLE II
*Exports to St Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands—
Type and Sex Analysis, 1969 and 1970*

<i>Species</i>				<i>Sex</i>	1969	1970
Cattle .	.	.	.	Bulls	35	—
				Heifers	15	—
				Cows	11	3
Sheep .	.	.	.	Rams	4	55
				Ewes	2	77
Goats .	.	.	.	Bucks	1	1
				Does	2	10

Stock Farm: During 1970 the stock farm was run by a Chief Stockman and one permanent labourer. A number of labourers were employed from time to time. Work included maintenance and up-grading of a herd of cattle. A flock of sheep and a Jack were also maintained.

Agricultural Credit: Loans issued and repayments made during 1969 and 1970 were as follows:

Old Scheme (Agricultural Credit Fund)

1969		1970	
2 Loans	—\$1,400·00	4 Loans	—\$2,800·00
Repayments—	\$5,193·38	Repayments—	\$748·58

New Scheme (Pasture Improvement Fund)

1969	1970
7 Loans —\$5,200-00	5 Loans —\$3,600-00
Repayments—\$3,363-83	Repayments— \$690-67

Fishing: There was an adequate supply of fish for local use as well as for export to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Fisheries Credit: The number of loans issued and repayments made in 1969 and 1970 was as follows:

1969	1970
3 Loans —\$2,450-00	Nil Loans
Repayments—\$1,305-06	Repayments—\$669-01

Forestry: Forestry in the Territory was carried out mainly by the National Parks Trust and the emphasis in 1970 was mainly on the re-establishment of the Mount Sage National Park where a total of 3,000 trees were planted in 1970. Soil and water conservation continued in 1970 with the construction of terraces on slopes where agriculture exists and in policing of water areas.

Agricultural Shows: With improved weather conditions, it was possible to hold shows at three different places: Tortola; Jost Van Dyke and Virgin Gorda. These shows were extremely successful and exhibits were outstanding both in the way of handicraft and fruits, vegetables and livestock.

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES FROM THE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Limes . . .	437-00	309-50	354-00	452-50	214-00
Bananas . .	1,684-00	2,137-00	1,344-00	1,441-00	3,386-20
Coconuts . .	7,885-50	4,472-00	2,978-20	1,858-00	1,994-75
Livestock . .	18,799-00	29,620-00	44,985-00	7,615-00	5,805-00
Fish . . .	31,322-10	32,598-00	87,829-00	23,756-00	21,607-00

Surveys: Surveys became part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health portfolio on the 1st July, 1968. A Government Surveyor was appointed and was attached to the Public Works Department. The Principal Surveyor Officer, British Development Division, visited the Territory in October 1968 and discussed the

requirements of a full Cadastral Survey. He advised that it was necessary for Government to consider the enactment of proper legislation; and that there should be a central department for surveyors, who could then be seconded to any project or department. As a result, the British Virgin Islands Government made an application for British Technical Assistance for provision of an expert to be appointed as Land Surveyor and Titles Officer, to be attached to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health for eighteen months, to advise on the setting up of a Lands and Survey Department and to assist the Ministry in its survey requirements.

The first member of the Cadastral Survey Team, the Cartographer and the Leader of the Team arrived in September 1970 and preliminary work on this project was started. As the Government Surveyor left the Territory in June 1970 and had not so far been replaced, the Cadastral Team leader was invited to act as Government Surveyor in an advisory capacity. A team from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys continued in 1970 the work started in 1969 of setting up a triangulation framework for the cadastral survey. They had also advised on survey matters following the departure of the Government Surveyor.

In 1970, three bills were enacted by the Legislative Council in connection with the surveys. The Land Surveyor's Bill, the Registered Land Ordinance and the Land Adjudication Bill. A Board of Survey was set up.

While most of the inhabitants of the Territory are land owners, few of them hold clear titles. The Cadastral survey should result in an up to date register of undisputable titles.

Land Utilisation and Tenure: With the development of the tourist industry and the decline in agriculture in the Territory came changes in the utilisation and tenure of land. Many sites were purchased or leased by persons from outside the Territory for hotels and guest-houses, apartments and cottages as well as for commercial offices. The Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act requires non-British subjects to obtain a licence to hold land. In 1970 The Restricted Persons (Commonwealth Citizens) Land Holding Regulation Ordinance was enacted. This extended the licence requirement to all persons who are not British Virgin Islanders.

Mining: During the year there were several enquiries from companies interested in mining at the Copper Mine area in Virgin Gorda or in exploring for off-shore minerals, gas and oil. The Territory sought advice from the U.K. Government on the provision of suitable legislation for such activities.

RAINFALL 1961-1970

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1961	3.14	2.54	1.47	2.01	1.20	1.72	3.25	4.77	1.64	6.71	8.48	5.05	41.98
1962	3.53	1.43	2.11	2.57	7.34	6.39	3.11	5.46	6.62	4.73	1.88	2.68	47.85
1963	1.84	2.29	4.10	2.49	4.13	1.34	4.48	11.65	4.47	2.75	2.56	0.55	42.65
1964	3.43	1.33	2.25	2.56	1.96	1.32	3.50	4.03	2.85	3.90	2.49	2.13	31.75
1965	1.68	0.49	0.66	4.08	11.61	2.98	4.11	4.77	4.43	5.53	3.99	4.05	48.38
1966	4.34	1.91	1.99	7.54	1.28	2.88	5.63	4.06	6.59	5.64	5.38	3.85	51.09
1967	1.36	2.63	0.45	0.30	4.03	3.44	2.33	2.43	2.60	6.26	7.29	1.70	34.82
1968	1.98	2.75	2.56	2.28	3.02	5.00	3.48	2.12	5.87	8.17	7.95	6.64	51.82
1969	3.61	7.77	0.82	0.62	16.28	4.12	3.13	7.46	3.53	5.66	11.57	2.54	67.11
1970	1.30	1.98	—	2.49	4.90	2.40	4.13	2.55	4.45	20.10	9.09	8.63	62.02

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

THE Chief Minister is the Minister responsible for Education. He is advised by a Board of Education which met four times during 1970. This Board has power to make Regulations dealing with all matters affecting education in the territory, with the proviso that all Regulations so prepared shall have no force until they have been approved by the Administrator in Council. The British Virgin Island High School Committee advises on matters concerning the High School but has no executive powers. The Primary Schools Commission which met four times is advisory to the Minister but has powers to deal with all questions of staff management and discipline in primary schools in accordance with Regulations made under the Ordinance. The Chief Education Officer is Chairman of each of these Committees and also Secretary of the Board of Education. In this way the activities of all three bodies are coordinated.

Much time was spent in the earlier part of the year in drafting a revision of the Education Ordinance and relevant Regulations. Pressure of business later in the year prevented a finalisation of the Draft.

The increased salary scales which came into effect on 1st January, 1969 made it possible to obtain (and keep) the services of a certain number of qualified members of staff of the High School and the primary schools. It was still difficult, however, to obtain British Virgin Islanders with suitably high academic qualifications for posts in the primary schools; and the percentage of trained teachers remained far too low; at 30%. There were special difficulties in appointing teachers with the variety of qualifications needed for teaching in the High School.

Costs of education have risen sharply. There was an increase of \$218,729 (62%) in the 1970 recurrent budget due mainly to the increased salaries. Entry to the High School remained non-selective but in 1970 a fair number of children over the age of 12 who were eligible for entry were retained, at their parents' wish, for a further year in their district all-age primary schools so as better to consolidate their basic work in literacy and numeracy. The cost per pupil in primary schools (excluding capital outlay, maintenance of buildings

and pensions of teachers) was about U.S. \$184 per annum, while the cost in the High School was about \$370 per annum. This latter cost does not represent a full year's cost since there was considerable physical expansion, with the resultant pupil and staff expansion, in the 1970 September term. The Smedwig Trust made a gift of \$40,000 to provide an additional technical block at the British Virgin Islands High School. Also given was a scholarship of \$1,200, for either a 3- or a 4-year University Award.

Primary Education

School attendance figures for 1970 show a high attendance. At 31st December there were 1,935 children enrolled in the primary and post primary sections of the "primary" schools. The proportion of pupils to teachers in the primary schools was, by West Indian standards, generous, at about 25 to 1.

During the year several generous awards were made to enable teachers to attend Training Colleges or other institutions of higher learning abroad. The major development in primary schools in 1970 was the rebuilding of six schools formerly housed in Methodist Churches. In January grants of \$160,000 (£66,667) were received from the ODA for the rebuilding and equipping of the schools at Baugher's Bay, Sea Cow Bay, North Sound and Jost Van Dyke. It was possible to occupy three of these schools before the year ended. In teacher training, the British Development Division in the Caribbean provided six scholarships in 1970 at the L.I.T.T.C.

Efforts were made during the year to stimulate fresh thinking at the primary level in various subject areas. In August, a successful two week course in the teaching of The Language Arts, financed by the Development Division with the cooperation of the British Council, was organised by the Education Department. About 35 primary teachers attended. The Course gave special emphasis to work with infants and juniors and included displays of children's work and teaching apparatus, as well as a generous gift of text and class books from the British Council.

During July-August advantage was taken by Government of invitations to send teachers to special courses organised in other islands with financial and staffing assistance provided for them by the British Development Division.

In addition, the B.V.I. was included in the CEDO Scheme for the development of science, particularly at the post primary level (for age groups of about 11 to 13). The CEDO project is to be tested in two schools, namely, the B.V.I. High School and the St Mary's School, Virgin Gorda, which still has a comparatively large post primary

section. A three man UNESCO team visited the British Virgin Islands in early December in connection with the UNESCO/UWI Regional Project in Curriculum and Teacher Education. The UWI Institute of Education Inservice Course continues under the general supervision of the Institute of Education Consultant.

The Chief Minister and the Chief Education Officer visited the Development Division in Barbados during the year to stress the need for additional resources of finance and personnel. As a result of their representations, it was possible to obtain substantial grants for new school buildings, and improvements and scholarship awards. Visits continued to be paid by the public health nurse. Pupils in all primary schools and the High School had regular days for attendance at the dental clinic. Reports on health and dental care were satisfactory.

The British Virgin Islands High School

The year 1970 saw major developments in this comprehensive secondary school. It had not been possible through lack of accommodation to admit any new pupils in the school year beginning September 1969, so that the 1970 intake which represented a two years' backlog included a number of older pupils, of widely differing academic levels and interests, who had to be carefully classified and absorbed. The opportunity was taken as a result of a study of all the pupils in the school to regroup all 788 pupils old and new.

The school was fortunate in the appointment in September 1970 of a new Principal with Training College and University qualifications who had had years of experience working in a technical school, and training in "Comprehensive" type schooling. There were many problems of staffing as eight members of staff left before or during the term, some on completion of contract, and some on scholarship awards which were announced late. It was possible, however, to appoint eight graduates, seven staff with specialist qualifications and four assistants, so that the work of the school could be adequately conducted. To assist in the overall administration and supervision of the school, three of the Heads of Departments were given additional responsibilities as Assistant Principals. The effects of the reorganisation were soon evident in much improved discipline and by the end of the year staff and pupils had settled down to become a "Community".

The appointment of an Office Manager, in addition to the Clerk, relieved the Principal of many of the minor time-consuming tasks of administration.

This reorganisation of the school would not have been possible without the provision of the additional workrooms, classrooms,

equipment and furniture of all kinds obtained from the British Development Division grants of:

- (a) \$10,000 for a technical workshop block;
- (b) \$16,000 for a perimeter fence; and
- (c) \$173,000 for an upper floor of the building provided under (a) above as well as for a new 2 storey block.

The school now has in addition to its remodelled administration block, three science laboratories, three Home Economics rooms, one metalwork room, two woodwork rooms, two drawing offices, a music room, nine additional classrooms (to make a total of 29 classrooms), a room for handicrafts and a library. Funds were also secured locally to do almost a complete repainting of the former buildings and a general clean-up of the grounds. Internal improvements were made to staff rooms, washrooms, and small offices provided for the Assistant Principals.

Work was commenced on rethinking the curriculum, particularly for the less able or less interested pupils. A very definite weakness exists in literacy: the appointment of a VSO with special training in remedial education and the secondment of an experienced headmistress of a primary school were steps taken to give special help.

Early in the year the Chief Education Officer with the assistance of two members of the Institute of Education Staff organised a conference with Heads of Departments and Divisions. This was followed by meetings of Departments to discuss general aspects of a Curriculum suitable for a Comprehensive School.

The principal and senior members of the staff (particularly the Heads of Departments) met frequently to discuss details of organisation and administration. Much thought was given to ways of improving discipline and control and to providing a widening variety of educational experience at all levels of the school.

A party of High School Staff, led by the Chief Education Officer, visited the Charlotte Amalie High School in February to study its administration.

As a follow up to this visit, discussions took place at joint meetings of the B.V.I. High School Committee, the Board of Education and the B.V.I. High School Staff, with the Chief Minister, to see what further improvements might be made to the physical plant and the curriculum of the High School. A working Party was set up for further discussions but these became unnecessary because of the considerable replanning that followed in the September term under the new Principal.

Extra Mural Activities

Through the cooperation of several members of the High School Staff it was possible for the Chief Education Officer to arrange, in September term, classes in

- (a) Elementary and Advanced Typing
- (b) Elementary and Advanced Shorthand
- (c) Elementary and O Level English
- (d) L.C.C. Arithmetic and O Level Maths.

40 students enrolled.

Major developments in afternoon and evening classes will need to await the appointment of the Evening Institute Organiser promised, under TA terms, by the Development Division.

Late in the year the Chief Education Officer accepted the invitation to be Local Representative of the Extra-Mural Department of the UWI.

School Broadcasting

It was not possible to do much in 1970 by way of School Broadcasting. Some use was made of the recorded material supplied by the Radio Unit of the UWI and there were occasional special broadcasts. At the end of the year, however, an offer was accepted for special training in school broadcasting for one of the trained primary teachers now on secondment to the High School. On his return he will be attached to the Education Department, and seconded for work in this field. He will be advised by the Specialist Staff of the local Radio Station, and by a group of class teachers.

The Public Library

The Library was established in 1943. The lending service at Headquarters (see circulation figures below) decreased in 1970. However, the Reference and Information Service was greatly utilised. Failure to meet some reference needs resulted from the fact that the Library is not a legal depository for all material—Government and non-governmental—published in the British Virgin Islands. Mobile runs were extended to Belle Vue, East End and Long Look. Because of the increased book vote (see statistics below) an allocation materialised in the circulating collection of some 630 new books specially for the Mobile Library. The demand from schools was, however, far from adequately met.

Inter Library Cooperation

The St Thomas Public Library exchange programme sent governmental, non-governmental and local publications to this library.

Bookstock

At the end of the year the bookstock was 13,520 (706 in the Mobile Library). Additions were, in the adult section of 262, Fiction and 264 Non-Fiction; in the Juvenile Library of 473 and 517 Non-Fiction, making a total of 1,516.

Book Circulation

The circulation of books in Head Quarters in the case of Adults decreased by 832 to 7,234; Juveniles by 121 to 3,864.

128 Adults and 927 Juveniles patronised the Mobile Library. There was a decrease of 34 in the case of adults but a welcome increase of 121 in the case of Juveniles.

857 Adults and 17 Juveniles took out periodicals. There was a slight decrease of 11 in adults and 17 in juveniles.

Registration

	<i>New</i>	<i>Total</i>
ADULT		
Headquarters	149	1,309
Mobile Library	22	74
JUVENILE		
Headquarters	77	1,344
Mobile Library	77	579

Finances

The Library's income was made up of \$4,000 from a Government Grant, \$10-00 for a sale of "Who's Who" and \$112-03 from fines. The majority of this was spent on books (\$2,622-70), periodicals (\$213-00) and library supplies (about \$300-00).

*Education Statistics 1970**G.C.E. "O" LEVEL PASSES*

Cambridge G.C.E. 35 candidates obtained 39 subject passes
London G.C.E. 16 subject passes

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS B.V.I. HIGH SCHOOL

Graduate trained 8 Graduate untrained 8
Non-graduate trained 16 Non-graduate untrained 13

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Trained non-graduate 35
Untrained with Secondary School education completed 17
Untrained without Secondary School education completed 27.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH*General*

Further progress was made in 1970 towards the objectives of the 1968 Integrated Health Programme which, whilst by no means totally fulfilled, came closer to reality. Amongst improvements were an increase in the Medical Staff; increases in the number of trained nurses; the passing of a new Public Health Law with the initiation of regular Board of Health meetings; a new men's ward and observation ward at Peebles Hospital; the institution of a records system at the Hospital; the opening of a Central Public Health Clinic. These measures of improvement were achieved in spite of a basic financial inadequacy, the proportion of total recurrent expenditure available for health purposes remaining at less than 10%.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

During the year 1970 the post of Chief Medical Officer changed hands again for the fourth time in less than a year, a situation which led to inconsistency in planning, administration and achievements. A new post was created for a doctor on his return from training at the University of the West Indies, bringing the total number of doctors in Government service to five.

The nursing staff was improved by the return of the Assistant Matron from the U.K. after courses in Midwifery and Neonatal Paediatrics, and three staff nurses from basic training at the University Hospital, Jamaica. It was still difficult to recruit candidates with adequate basic educational qualifications for regular nursing training but the Chief Medical Officer was able to send two trainee technicians to do General and Midwifery training respectively.

A technician left the Laboratory in September for further training in Medical Technology in New York, and a trainee technician started a course in Radiography in Jamaica. The loss of a Laboratory Technician to general administration left an increased burden to the remaining technicians and the three trainees in the Laboratory, but fortunately it was possible to recruit a qualified Pharmacist.

HOSPITAL

In spite of some improvement including a new male ward and mental observation ward, the conversion of the old men's ward to a Casualty Room and the re-flooring of the Theatre, the general state and size of the hospital left much to be desired. The island was visited by a team of hospital consultants early in the year whose report, produced in July, strongly advocated rebuilding both an in-patient hospital and,

on a separate site, an out-patient and Public Health Centre. Whilst appreciating the possibilities of such an arrangement it was felt that the financial resources available were too slender to operate the proposed service. It was decided to review the existing hospital site with the object of building a new hospital above the old whilst making use of the old building for office and storage space. Preliminary sketch plans were prepared before the end of the year, and it is hoped that 1971-1973 may see a new hospital established and bring relief from the impracticable conditions in which the staff work at present.

Vital Statistics

	1970	1969
<i>Live Births</i>		
Total Live Births	289	215
Rate per 1,000 (population)	27.4	21.5
Still Births	2	6
Neonatal Mortality (up to one year)	2	Not recorded
Maternal Mortality	—	—
Total Deaths	57	69

Immunisation

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus immunisation figures in 1970 showed a fall compared with 1969 when a mass immunisation programme in the Schools was carried out, but poliomyelitis immunisation appears for the first time.

	1970	1969
Children who completed primary immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus	993	2,074
Children who received their "Booster" doses	43	41
Vaccination against poliomyelitis	3,023	0

	1970	1969
<i>Vaccination against Small-Pox</i>		
Infants and Schoolchildren who received Small-Pox Vaccination	69	2,802
Adults Vaccinated	269	276
Yellow Fever Vaccination	8	11
Cholera Vaccination	10	0

Hospital Services

	1970	1969
No. of Patients Admitted	1,130	1,047
No. of Patients seen as Outdoor Patients	3,692	3,710
No. of Major Operations	227	334
No. of Minor Operations	126	172
No. of Confinements	232	211
No. of Deaths	28	30

There was a small increase in hospital admissions in 1970. This was made possible by the completion of a small extension providing seven extra beds in two wards. The old male ward was converted to a Casualty room. Amongst other small improvements were the re-flooring of the Operating Theatre (with Terrazzo) and the construction of a small nursery on the 1st floor. Re-painting, the building of cupboards and installation of fluorescent lights also improved the appearance and condition of the labour ward. Less happily the heavy autumn rain-fall exposed the porosity of the roof and on several occasions flooding made the situation miserable for both Staff and Patients.

A considerable quantity of new equipment including casualty trolleys, dressing trolleys, an anaesthetic machine and operating theatre instruments were purchased with money generously supplied by the Hospital Fund. A further sum of \$5,000-00 was raised by the Rotary Club and will be available for the purchase of more equipment.

Maternity Service

	1970	1969
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics	127	51
New Attendances	158	—
Total Attendance	410	—

The attendances at Ante- and Post-Natal clinics were a matter for considerable concern. It was hoped that the improvement in the service would encourage more and regular attendances. Unfortunately there is a common assumption in the Virgin Islands that the Government service which is free is less good than private care. Not until individual practitioners encourage ante-natal patients to attend clinics will the service fulfil its potential.

School Health

	1970	1969
Visits to Schools by Health Staff	38	89
Children Examined	No routine exams.	2,498
Children Dewormed	1,401	1,868
Children Treated	—	63
Children referred for X-rays	—	9
Children investigated for Sickle Cell Anaemia	—	116
Houses Visited	2	15

Apart from the traditional visit to “De-worm” the children there were no routine Medical Examinations of Schoolchildren in 1970. This was largely due to changes in Medical staff resulting from resignations and leave. But during June and July a very successful series of school visits were made as part of a programme for polio-myelitis immunisation.

Infant Welfare

	1970	1969
No. of Clinics held	215	83
Attendances	2,418	1,245
New Babies Registered.	822	305
Homes Visited	143	129

The opening of a Central Welfare Clinic at the Old Agricultural Station in September, combined with more frequent visits by Public Health Nurses to clinics held in Cane Garden Bay, Belle Vue, Sea Cow Bay and Baugher's Bay, almost doubled the attendance at Infant Welfare Clinics. About half the children seen were unwell, the remainder attending either for immunisation, routine examination or advice.

Laboratory Service

In spite of the loss of two fully trained laboratory technicians to advanced courses during the year, the work of the laboratory increased both in volume and in scope. In addition to routine hospital services greater demands were made by the Public Health Department whose Immigrant and Food Handlers Clinic required a considerable increase in the number of stools examined and serology testing.

	1970	1969
Total specimens examined	10,150	9,487
These were divided into:		
Blood	6,236	5,487
Urine	1,700	1,367
Stool	1,238	1,716
Blood typing and cross matching for transfusions .	565	501
Bacteriology examinations of blood, stool, urine, swabs for culture of bacteria	379	377
Sputum examination	23	37
Cerebro-spinal fluid	9	2

X-Ray Service

A trainee technician left in October to attend a course in Radiography in Jamaica of two years' duration. It is also hoped, before his return, to send him to the United Kingdom either on a course in maintenance of electro-medical equipment or to Messrs Watson for instruction in the maintenance of our own X-ray apparatus. It is hoped that the VSO technician will return to the newly created post of Radiographer during the period of the trainee's technical training course.

	1970	1969
Total X-Rays	1,426	834

Dispensing Services

There was still no trainee in the Pharmacy nor did there seem to be any interest in this post. Fortunately the Chief Medical Officer was able to secure the services in October of a pharmacist trained in Trinidad who was appointed on a part-time basis only but who has shown highly commendable interest in the hospital pharmacy. The laboratory technicians are no longer required to take turns at dispensing and as a result of the pharmacist's hard work and long hours outside his terms of duty the pharmacy is now orderly, well documented and efficient. It has also been possible to use a number of preparations made up on the spot instead of having to import these at greater expense.

Ambulance Service

The UNICEF Ambulance was used for a number of emergencies. Technically a fee of \$5.00 is charged for its use although there are obviously numerous occasions when it is impossible to charge a fee.

Mental Health

There was still no complete after care service for mental patients returning from Antigua although with cooperation from the police and district nurses it has been possible to make some improvements in follow-up. Greater efforts were made to treat mental patients at the hospital instead of automatically referring them to Antigua. With the lack of space and small staff available this was not an easy task.

Tuberculosis

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis was found. The patient had recently arrived from the Dominican Republic and was promptly repatriated. Screening of contacts failed to show any spread of disease.

	1970	1969
Tuberculin testing	244	2,060
Positive	32	107
Negative	212	1,853

The high 1969 figures resulted from an independent survey of one particular area in Tortola.

Prison Health Service

The Medical Officer made many visits to Her Majesty's Prison in 1970, to examine and treat prisoners. There were many attendances at the hospital clinics and Casualty Department.

Policemen were seen at their barracks and also at the hospital clinics and Casualty Department.

The Medical Officer condemned the police barracks as unfit for the force because they were insanitary, overcrowded; both conditions predisposing to ill health.

It was suggested that when the new prison and police barracks were completed a small room be set aside for the Medical Officer to examine any patients; a Medical Officer should visit once a week regularly, spending a couple of hours so that anyone with medical problems could consult him. Emergencies would be seen at any time at Peebles Hospital.

Port Health Authority

Routine Health Certificates are collected from vessels entering Road Harbour. At the present time de-ratisation measures are not

enforced. In view of the work load of the two Health Inspectors it may be some time before this can become a routine part of the Health Department's activity.

Board of Health

The passing of a new Public Health Law in June 1970 gave a necessary stimulus to improvement plans for environmental sanitation. There was initially some reluctance on the part of the appointed members to serve on the Board of Health. Eventually monthly meetings were established coincidentally with the arrival of the Chief Public Health Inspector seconded to the territory from the Trinidad Government.

During the latter half of the year the Board discussed proposed regulations for control of garbage disposal; keeping of animals; control of mosquitoes; and eating establishments.

Environmental Sanitation

1. *Water Supplies:* Preparations were completed for chlorinating the main water supply at the well head in Road Town. One of the laboratory staff will be responsible for checking both the chlorine content of the main supply and its bacteriological state.

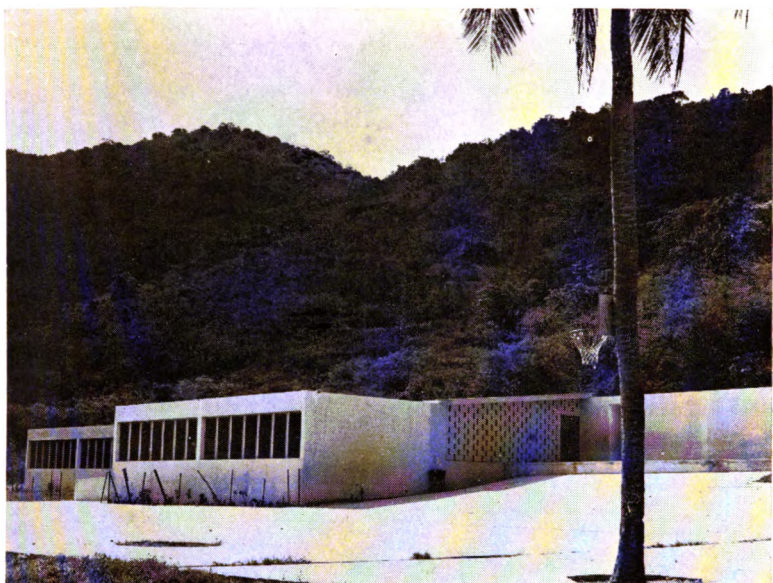
2. *Sewage Disposal:* No progress was made in 1970 with the latrine programme accepted as part of the Integrated Health Programme of 1968.

3. *Overall main water supply and sewage disposal:* A feasibility study was being carried out with the hope that extension of the main water supply to East End/Long Look, and a main sewage scheme at least for Road Town, will be a possibility for the future.

4. *Survey of water supplies and sewage disposal:* Results of a survey by the Health Department are as follows:

Total Houses	2,228
Mains water supply	278
Cistern water supply	1,598
Other forms of water supply	641
Flush toilets	1,072
Pit latrines	620
No sewage disposal	728

5. *Garbage Service:* This was a recurring problem for the Department during 1970. One new garbage truck was acquired in July. In view of the high cost it was decided that, in addition to the contractors employed on the North Side of Tortola and in Virgin Gorda, a contract should be given for garbage clearance from Beef Island to West End. This finally became operational in October but proved



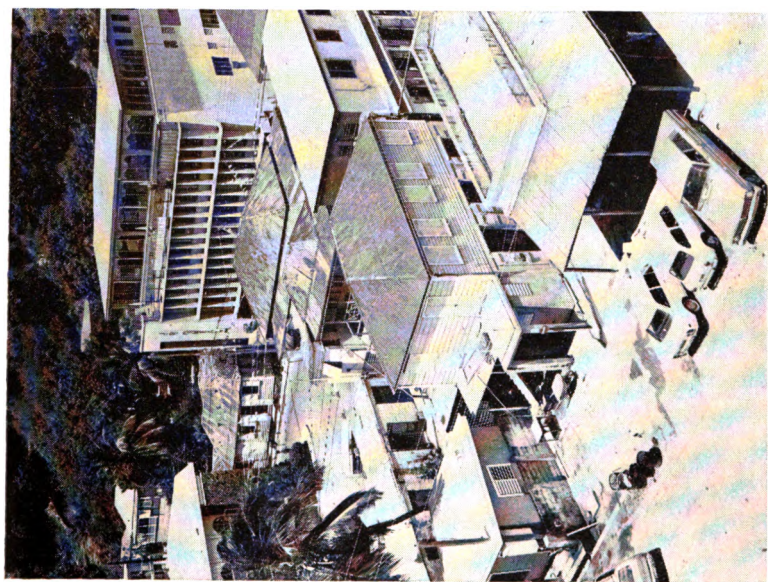
1. *New Primary School, Capoon's Bay.*
Built with financial assistance from Development Aid Funds



2. *New Public Health Clinic East End/Long Look District*



3. Speech Day B.V.I. High School



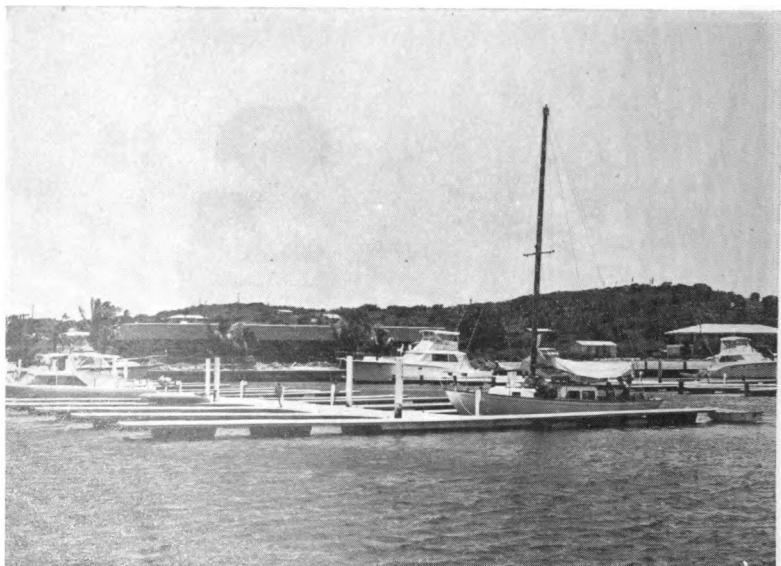
4. Commercial Section, Centre of Road Town, Tortola



5. Marina Road Harbour



6. *New Deep Water Harbour, Port Purcell, Tortola*



7. *Marina at Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda—A Rockresorts Yachting Development*

unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the Health Department would take over again in 1971.

Social Security

Government has under consideration a social security scheme for the Territory. This will cover almost everyone between the ages of 16 and 60 years in the case of women and 65 years in the case of men resident here and everyone employed in the Territory under a contract of service. The weekly contribution will be a fixed sum for all contributions. If the insured is employed under a contract of service, his employer will pay the contribution and deduct half of the amount from the employee's wages. All contributions will be paid into a social insurance fund, which will meet the cost of pensions and administering the fund. In order to qualify for benefits under the scheme, contributors must pay a minimum of 156 contributions.

Welfare

The Recreation Trust, set up by legislation in 1965, secures and maintains public recreation grounds and facilities for the needs of the Community. A monthly meeting is held of the members under the chairmanship of the Administrator. During 1970 the Track Athletics Association requested funds for a track and was allocated \$175.00. The Sporting Groups in East End/Long Look requested assistance in building a stand in their recreation ground and \$500.00 was allocated for this. The Primary Schools Association requested funds for sports equipment and \$3,654 was approved for this purpose. \$500.00 was also approved for a stand at Sea Cow Bay. The new recreation ground at Road Town was completed in 1970; an area at Baughers Bay was acquired by loan and a lease was obtained for an area in Brewers Bay. Under construction were courts for tennis, volley ball and netball, a 50 metre swimming pool, a Boy Scouts headquarters, a gymnasium and a parking lot for 200 cars. A Fund Raising Appeal resulted in cash donations totalling \$17,838 and the gifts of a Cricket Scoreboard and the 50 metre swimming pool. The B.V.I. Government donated \$2,000 and the real estate made available.

Chapter 8: Legislation

TWENTY-THREE Ordinances were passed in the year 1970 and during this time forty-six Subsidiary Enactments were made under the authority of Ordinances.

Of the Ordinances passed in 1970, the most notable were:

- (a) The Land Surveyor's Ordinance which introduced a system of registration of all land in the Virgin Islands together with a reformed system of land tenure in order to simplify and expedite the transfer and transmission of land. The implementation of this policy requires a cadastral survey of the whole of the Virgin Islands in order to provide the accurate records which will be required by the proposed land registry. The Land Surveyor's Ordinance, Chapter 196, was not adequate for this purpose and there was substituted for it a law suited to the new requirements.
- (b) The Land Adjudication Ordinance which made provision to sub-divide the Territory into adjudication areas and for the appointment by the Administrator of an Adjudication Officer. Aggrieved persons have an appeal to the Court of Appeal.
- (c) The Electricity Ordinance which made provision for the establishment of a board and for the exercise by the Board of functions relating to the supply of Electricity.
- (d) The Restricted Persons Ordinance which extended the provision of the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act, to regulate the holding of land in the Virgin Islands by other Commonwealth Citizens and by companies under the control of those Commonwealth Citizens.
- (e) The Emergency Powers (Hurricane, Earthquake, Fire, Flood or any natural disaster) Ordinance which made provision for the welfare and the safety of the community in case of hurricane, earthquake, fire, floods, or any natural disaster.
- (f) The Public Order Ordinance which prohibited the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintenance by private persons of associations of military or similar character; and also provided for the preservation of public order on the occasion of public processions and meetings and in public places.
- (g) The Caribbean Development Bank Ordinance which provided for the implementation by the Government of an Agreement for the establishment and operation of the Caribbean Development Bank.
- (h) The Savings Bank (Winding Up) Ordinance which provided for the winding up of the Government Savings Bank because of the little use made of it since the influx of the commercial banks.

Pursuant to the Registration and Records Act the following deeds were registered in the years shown:

<i>Year</i>								<i>Total number of deeds registered</i>
1968	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	767
1969	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	918
1970	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,022

This is an indication of the steady rise in the number of legal documents recorded, the majority being for land transfers, leases and mortgages arising from a demand by persons from outside the territory for land for residences and for business purposes.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

SINCE 27th February, 1967, Justice is administered in the Territory by the Supreme Court of the West Indies Associated States comprising the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

The main body of the law in force consists of Statute Law, that is to say, legislation enacted by the former Colony of the Leeward Islands and locally enacted legislation. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes, for example the British Nationality Acts 1948 and 1964 and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial Territories and extend to the Territory. Where Statute Law is silent, the Common Law of England is applicable. The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the Territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. Appeals from the lower courts lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. General sittings of the High Court in its Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction are held during March and October. Special sittings for the hearing of civil cases are also held as necessary. The Chief Justice may select the Judge assigned to any State to exercise the Jurisdiction of the court in relation to the Virgin Islands. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St Christopher, Nevis (and Anguilla) normally sits in the Virgin Islands. In September 1970, the joint post of Magistrate/Registrar was divided. The Registrar of the High Court of Justice is also Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction presided over by the Puisne Judge sits for the trial of civil cases where the amount claimed does not exceed \$840.00 and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,200.00.

POLICE

1970 was a year of comparative calm which gave the Police a welcome opportunity to consolidate and plan for the future. Progress was made towards implementing various essential capital projects with the assistance of United Kingdom Development Aid funds and the disturbing increase in crime in previous years dropped to some 5% over the 1969 figures.

However, none of these matters should be regarded with complacency. The unexpected reduction in the anticipated number of crime reports was certainly linked to the slowing-down of the Territory's economic growth rate which led to an exodus of migrant labour. Once the economy improves, it is to be expected that the crime rate will increase proportionately.

Despite the progress made in 1970 towards implementing the Police capital projects, the overall programme remained behind schedule and much still remains to be done. At the same time, the Force had serious deficiencies in manpower and training.

The Public Order Ordinance, No. 18 of 1970, prohibited the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintaining of military associations by private persons. It also made provisions for preserving public order at public processions and meetings.

The construction of a new Police Headquarters and Fire Station in Road Town commenced at the beginning of July. The building is scheduled for completion at the end of 1971. In addition to providing improved office space, the new Headquarters will contain barrack accommodation for 50 men.

Plans were also prepared for Police Stations at East and West Tortola and it is hoped that these will be built in 1971.

By the end of 1970, Police had started along the long road towards improving its accommodation and equipment. In addition to the building plans mentioned in the preceding paragraphs some radio equipment was installed and more was planned for 1971. A new Police launch was on order for delivery in the middle of 1971.

Manpower and training continued to be problems. At the end of 1970 Police had a total establishment of 44 all-ranks, an increase of seven on the 1969 figure.

Housing

The new Police Headquarters at Road Town was started on 1st July and is due for completion in the middle of 1971. This will provide barrack accommodation for fifty men. No progress was made during the year towards building married quarters.

Finance

Comparative figures for the years 1967 to 1970 are set out below.
\$ USC

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Personal emoluments .	50,235	56,815	98,916	133,850
Other Changes .	17,626	25,707	31,431	33,593
	67,861	82,522	130,347	164,443

RECRUITING AND TRAINING

Qualifications for enlistment

Section 13 of the Police Act lays down that no person shall be appointed as a constable unless:

- (a) he has attained the age of 19 years but not reached 35 years;
- (b) his height is at least 5 feet 8 inches;
- (c) he passes a medical examination;
- (d) he is of good character;
- (e) he has a minimum education of Standard 7.

Recruiting

Eight male police constables and one woman police constable joined the Force during 1970. These recruits came from the following Islands:

British Virgin Islands	4
St Lucia	1
Dominica	1
Anguilla	1
St Kitts	1
Trinidad	1

Five of the male recruits had previous police experience in the Eastern Caribbean and had already undergone recruit training. The remaining four recruits were sent to the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados, for training.

The policy of the Government of the British Virgin Islands is to encourage local men and women to join the Force but there has been great difficulty in finding suitable recruits.

One sergeant attended the Overseas Police Officers' General Course at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon, England. He was still at the School at the end of the year.

One Police corporal attended a basic C.I.D. Course at the Police Training School, Jamaica.

One constable attended a basic Special Branch Course at the Police Training School, Jamaica.

One woman police constable attended a Social Work Course at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

CRIME AND C.I.D.

Crime

The crime figures for 1970 showed a small increase on those for 1969. Police investigated a total of 318 reports against 301 in the previous year. The number of true reports was 262 as compared with 237 in 1969.

Comparative figures for the main categories of crime over the period, 1967 to 1970, are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>Offences Against Lawful Authority</i>				
True cases	6	5	10	7
Convicted cases	4	2	6	4
Acquitted cases	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn cases	—	1	1	1
Undetected cases	—	—	—	—
Pending cases	2	2	3	2
<i>Offences Against Public Morality</i>				
True cases	3	5	7	11
Convicted cases	1	—	1	—
Acquitted cases	—	—	—	2
Withdrawn cases	1	—	—	—
Undetected cases	1	1	3	6
Pending cases	—	4	3	2
<i>Offences Against the Person</i>				
True cases	26	26	49	64
Convicted cases	20	10	22	29
Acquitted cases	—	3	10	4
Withdrawn cases	2	1	9	1
Undetected cases	—	2	4	6
Pending cases	1	10	4	4
<i>Offences Against Property</i>				
True cases	65	109	169	176
Convicted cases	19	14	22	15
Acquitted cases	—	2	12	6
Withdrawn cases	2	6	10	10
Undetected cases	29	59	92	108
Pending cases	14	28	33	4
<i>Offences Against the Penal Code</i>				
True cases	—	9	2	4
Convicted cases	—	4	1	1
Acquitted cases	—	—	1	—
Withdrawn cases	—	3	—	1
Undetected cases	—	—	—	2
Pending cases	—	2	—	—

Offences Against Local Laws

Offences against local laws showed an increase of 31% on the comparable figures for 1969. Comparative figures for the years 1967 to 1970 are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<i>True Reports</i>				
Traffic	107	152	311	408
Others	108	174	343	301
	215	326	654	709

Comparative figures for the disposal of cases over the same period are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
True cases	215	326	654	709
Convicted cases	158	185	420	372
Acquitted cases	3	8	36	105
Withdrawn cases	15	43	48	126
Undetected cases	2	10	24	14
Pending cases	37	80	126	43

Juvenile Delinquency

A total of nine juveniles (i.e. persons under the age of 16 years) were convicted during 1970 for the following offences:

Offences Against Property	1
Traffic violations	7
Minor offences	1

No probation service or approved school exists in the Territory.

Criminal Investigation Department

The 1970 crime statistics continued to show a disappointingly low detection rate, particularly in those offences where the culprits were not readily identifiable. Thus in offences involving dishonesty the conviction rate was still only 10% of the true reports:

	<i>True reports:</i>	<i>Convictions:</i>
Thefts & allied offences	100	14
Robbery & Extortion	2	—
Break-ins	47	1
False Pretences	3	—
Receiving	1	—
	153	15

The Force continued to suffer from a shortage of trained detective officers and a lack of forensic and technical aids. One cheering note in 1970 was the identification and conviction of a house-breaker by means of fingerprints. This was the first case of its kind in the Territory.

Fingerprint Bureau

The Fingerprint Bureau was completely re-organised during the year and the Force was fortunate in obtaining the services of an experienced officer for this purpose. Despite this improvement, there is a great need for a Central Clearing House for the whole of the Eastern Caribbean.

TRAFFIC

Registration and licensing of vehicles

At the end of 1970, a total of 1,973 motor vehicles were registered and licensed for use on the public roads of the Territory. This represented an increase of 43% on the 1969 figure. Comparative figures for the period 1965 to 1970 are as follows:

1965	495
1966	627
1967	795
1968	1,189
1969	1,379
1970	1,973

Road Accidents

210 road accidents occurred during 1970 in which four persons were killed and 45 injured. Comparative figures for the period, 1967 to 1970, are set out below:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Total accidents	94	154	201	210
Persons killed	1	1	3	4
Persons injured	20	30	47	45

Traffic Offences

A total of 408 true reports of traffic violations were dealt with during 1970 compared with 311 in 1969.

382 of these reports resulted in court action from which 225 convictions were obtained.

Driving Tests

During 1970, Police remained responsible for the testing of drivers. Drivers' tests totalled 373. Comparative figures for the past four years are as follows:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Drivers passed . . .	58	132	111	206
Drivers failed . . .	97	98	136	167
Total tested . . .	155	230	247	373

There is a need to improve the general standard of driving in the Territory and it is hoped to send selected police officers for specialised training in vehicle and driver testing during 1971.

Examination of Vehicles

Police examine all motor vehicles for road-worthiness prior to issuing annual motor vehicle licences. This is a task which should be done by a trained motor mechanic and it is hoped that Government will arrange for this.

OTHER SPECIALISED BRANCHES

Fire Brigade

The Chief of Police is also Chief Fire Officer for the Territory. Until the end of 1969, there was a separate establishment for a small Fire Brigade but this was amalgamated into the Police Force at the beginning of 1970 and Police assumed responsibility for dealing with fires.

A weekly training programme was conducted during 1970 for volunteer firemen and some 12 civilians took part. It was also pleasing to note the assistance given to the Police by the general public when fires did occur.

At the beginning of 1970, Police handed over responsibility for the Beef Island Airport Fire Service to the Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry.

By the end of 1970, Police had the following fire equipment at its disposal:

- 1 Land Rover Fire Tender at Road Town.
- 1 Bedford 700 gallon Fire Tender at Road Town.
- 1 Willys Jeep Fire Tender at Virgin Gorda.

In 1970, 15 fires were dealt with by Police. None of these resulted in loss of life or serious injury.

Special Branch

It was hoped to start a separate Special Branch during 1970 but the approved establishment did not permit this. It is intended to press for this in 1971.

Riot Control Unit

No separate unit is maintained but all-ranks received inservice training.

Marine Section

At the end of 1970, it was anticipated that a new 40 foot fast patrol craft would be delivered for Police use in the early part of 1971. Provision was made in the 1971 estimates for a crew.

Women Police

There was an establishment for two women police constables during the year. At the end of December, there were no vacancies.

Auxilliary Units—Local Constables

At the 31st December, 1970 local constables were distributed throughout the Territory as follows:

Road Town	4
Baughers Bay	1
East End, Tortola	2
Frenchman's Cay	1
Carrot Bay	1
Cane Garden Bay	2
Brewers Bay	3
Jost Van Dyke	2
Chalwell	1
Bellevue	1
Peter Island	1
Salt Island	1
Virgin Gorda	4
Anegada	1
Total	<hr/> 25 <hr/>

Communications—Telecommunications

Police acquired an HF transceiver in August, 1970 and joined the Eastern Caribbean police network. It is hoped to install VHF internal radio communications during 1971.

Transport

The 1970 establishment did not permit the formation of a separate transport section. In October, two new long wheel base Land Rovers were purchased and at the end of the year Police had the following vehicles at their disposal:

Road Town	2 long wheel base Land Rovers
	2 Honda motor cycles
East End	1 short wheel base Land Rover
West End	1 short wheel base Land Rover
Virgin Gorda	1 long wheel base Land Rover.

One short wheel base Land Rover was boarded during 1970.

OTHER POLICE DUTIES

Aliens' Registration

There is no provision in the laws of the Territory for the registration of aliens.

Revenue Collection

Police are responsible for the sale of the following licences:

Drivers' Licences
Motor vehicle licences
Driving test fees
Firearms licences
Bicycle Licences.

Revenue collected during 1970 is shown below:

Drivers' licences	\$6,488
Motor vehicle licences	26,913
Driving test fees	599
Other licences	537
	<hr/>
	\$34,537

Fines collected in respect of prosecutions brought by Police during 1970 amounted to \$11,885 of which \$6,417 was in respect of traffic offences.

Film Censorship

The Chief of Police was a member of the Censor Board which is appointed by the Administrator under the provisions of section 4 of the Cinematographs Ordinance, Cap. 211. No regulations have yet been made under this Ordinance for the powers and duties of the Board.

Control of Firearms

Permits to keep and carry firearms are issued by Police after consultation with the Administrator. At the end of 1970 the firearms registered in the Territory were as follows:

Rifles	24
Shotguns	45
Handguns	13
	<hr/>
	82

The comparative figure for 1969 was 82.

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance, Cap. 166, which remained without amendment during 1970. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister of Government.

Prison accommodation remained unaltered during the year.

A total of 72 persons passed through prison hands during the year, 35 of whom were convicted prisoners.

Gross Prison Population 1967-1970

<i>Year</i>					<i>Total Prison Population</i>	<i>Total Convicted Prisoners</i>
1967	.	.	.	.	22	13
1968	.	.	.	.	31	11
1969	.	.	.	.	88	17
1970	.	.	.	.	72	35

The steady increase over the years emphasises the need for larger prison accommodation.

Administration and Staff

During 1970, there was no change in the basic administrative structure of the Service which remained under the command of the Chief of Police who is also designated as Keeper of the Prison. The establishment for Prison staff remained unaltered at one Prison Corporal and one Prison Warder.

Prison Population, 1970 (Types of Prisoners)

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>Female</i>
<hr/>						
<i>Prison State at 1st January, 1970</i>						
Convicted	.	.	8	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	.	.	—	—	—	—
In default	.	.	—	—	8	—
<i>Prison Admissions During 1970</i>						
Convicted	.	.	27	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	.	.	34	2	—	—
In default	.	.	1	—	62	2
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Prison Population, 1970			.	.	70	2
<i>Prison Discharges During 1970</i>						
Convicted	.	.	28	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	.	.	34	2	—	—
In default	.	.	1	—	—	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					63	2

Prison Population, 1970 (Types of Prisoners)—contd.

	Male	Female	Male	Total Female
<i>Prison State at 31st December, 1970</i>				
Convicted	7	—	—	—
Remanded in custody	—	—	—	—
In default	—	—	—	—
			7	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Age Groups of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Under 16 years	—	—
16 years & under 21 years	5	—
21 years & under 25 years	11	—
25 years & under 59 years	6	—
Over 50 years	5	—
Total	27	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Sentence of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Under 1 month	3	—
1 month & under 3 months	11	—
3 months & under 6 months	4	—
6 months & under 12 months	4	—
12 months & under 18 months	1	—
18 months & over	3	—
Life imprisonment	1	—
Total	27	—

Prison Population, 1970 (Offenders of Convicted Prisoners Received)

	Male	Female
Against the person	10	—
Against property	10	—
Non-payment of fines	1	—
Others	6	—
Total	27	—

Juvenile Offenders

No juvenile offenders were sentenced to imprisonment during 1970. The existing prison facilities are inadequate for the detention of

juveniles as the accommodation does not permit isolation of one class of prisoner from another.

Female Prisoners

Two adult females were remanded in custody during the year. In the absence of proper accommodation and female warders, this proved to be a costly and complicated exercise.

Remand Prisoners

A total of 36 persons were remanded in custody in the Prison during the year. Efforts were made to segregate these persons from the convicted prisoners but the limited space and communal courtyard made this virtually impossible.

Religion

No Prison Chaplain has been appointed but ministers of all denominations visit the prison regularly and services are held every Sunday.

Health and Diet

No serious health problems were encountered during the year. On the instructions of the Visiting Committee, the Government Medical Officer examined the water supply and found it was fit for human consumption.

Diet is in accordance with the provisions of the Prison Ordinance and is adequate and generally received without complaint. Efforts were made to start a system of bulk-buying foodstuffs to avoid excessive costs but the small prison population and the shortage of staff to enforce proper control prevented this from being an economical exercise. The situation is being kept under review and may be instituted if the prison population justifies it.

Mental Patients

No mental patients are normally detained as they are usually sent to Antigua for treatment. On three occasions during 1970, mental patients were detained in prison overnight before being sent on to Antigua.

Labour

Prisoners were employed on public work throughout the year. This work included cleaning of public offices and erection of road signs.

Extra-Mural Labour

No extra-mural sentences were imposed during the year.

Visits

His Honour the Administrator inspected the Prison in September, 1970. The Visiting Committee to the Prison made regular visits throughout the year.

Discipline

The general conduct of the prisoners was good apart from minor disciplinary offences.

Escapes

No prisoners escaped from prison custody during the year.

Executions

No person was executed in the Prison during 1970. One prisoner was sentenced to death but this was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment.

Remission

Regulation 160 of the Prison Rules provides for remission of up to one third of the prisoner's sentence for good behaviour. All Prisoners discharged in 1970 earned full remission.

Training of Prisoners

There is no provision for proper training of prisoners in trades that will serve them after their release. Carpentry tools were acquired during 1970 and prisoners were encouraged to use these. This proved to be very popular.

After-Care

There is no organisation to assist prisoners in finding work after their discharge.

Probation

There is no Probation Service in the Territory.

Finance

The total expenditure on the Prison Service during 1970 amounted to \$12,951·97, an increase of \$2,848·21 on 1969.

Prison Service Expenditure, 1966-1970

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Personal emoluments and temporary assistance .	2,878.95	2,148.00	3,926.93	7,141.00	8,045.49
Provisions and necessities .	1,212.67	2,314.27	3,144.96	2,837.57	3,725.30
Clothing and equipment .	104.70	202.19	398.14	907.48	907.48
Prison Warders' Uniforms .	32.50	46.90	36.00	7.75	94.60
Grants to discharged prisoners .	24.00	21.84	—	7.50	44.00
Sanitation .	56.32	51.00	4.00	—	98.75
Medical & dental .	88.70	13.00	55.00	—	44.35
	4,397.84	4,797.20	7,565.03	10,109.76	12,957.97

In 1970 the British Government agreed to pay for the cost of all Police training outside the Territory and this very generous gesture has taken a very heavy financial burden from the local Government. In addition to the six months' initial training course for recruits in Barbados, there are a variety of specialist courses in the Caribbean and in the United Kingdom. However, the most pressing need continued to be for General Duty refresher courses in the NCO/Constable cadres.

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force was established on the 26th February, 1967 as a result of constitutional changes in the Leeward Islands. Prior to that time Police in the Virgin Islands were part of the Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Police Force which in turn originated from the old Leeward Islands Police Force.

The 1952 Police Act provides for the establishment of the Force and lays down the powers and duties of Police. The latter are described as "the prevention and detection of crime and the repression of internal disturbance". In addition to these primary duties, Police were responsible for the following services during 1970:

The Fire Brigade

The Immigration Service (up until the 15th September)

The examination, registration and licensing of motor vehicles

The licensing of firearms.

In order to carry out all these duties, the Force had the following organisation at the end of 1970:

Police Headquarters, Road Town,

Police and Fire Station, Road Town,
 Police Station, Carrott Bay, West Tortola,
 Police Station, Long Swamp, East Tortola,
 Police Station, Valley, Virgin Gorda.

In addition, small Criminal Investigation and Traffic Departments were maintained at Police Headquarters.

Establishment and Strength (1967-1970)

	31.12.67		31.12.68		31.12.69		31.12.70	
	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.
Police:								
Chief of Police .	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1
A/Supt. of Police .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Insp. of Police .	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sergeants .	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Corporals .	3	3	5	5	5	6	8	8
M/Consts. .	11	10	17	16	19	17	23	23
W/Consts. .	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Totals .	20	19	28	27	31	27	38	38
Fire Brigade:								
Sergeants .	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Corporals .	1	—	2	1	2	1	1	2
M/Consts. .	1	2	4	2	4	4	4	2
Totals .	2	2	6	3	6	6	6	4
Grand Totals: .	22	21	34	30	37	33	44	42

Distribution of Establishment, 1970

	Chief	A/Supt	Insp	Sgts	Cpls	Male Cons	Women Cons	Total
Police:								
Headquarters .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
C.I.D. .	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Traffic .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Road Town .	—	—	1	1	4	17	2	25
West End .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
East End .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Virgin Gorda .	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Totals .	1	1	1	2	8	23	2	38
Fire Brigade:								
Road Town .	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Virgin Gorda .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Totals .	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	6
Grand Totals	1	1	1	3	9	27	2	44

Note:

Immigration was taken out of Police control on the 15th September, 1970.

Accordingly, establishment and strength figures for that Department have been omitted from this report.

Health

No serious health problems were encountered during the year and there was a very welcome drop in the number of man-days lost through ill-health. The loss amounted to 84 man-days as opposed to 422 in 1969.

Discipline

Disciplinary charges in 1970 totalled 76. All were for minor infringements of Police Regulations. A total of \$229.40 in fines was collected.

Racial Composition of the Force

At the 31st December, 1970, the Force was composed of natives of the following places:

Anguilla	1
Antigua	6
Barbados	1
British Virgin Islands	6
Dominica	8
Grenada	8
Montserrat	1
Nevis	2
St Kitts	2
St Lucia	1
St Vincent	3
Trinidad	2
United Kingdom	1
Total	42 all ranks

Length of Service

Length of service at the 31st December, 1970 was as follows:

	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	21 years & over	total
Officers .	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Inspectors .	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Sergeants .	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Corporals .	2	2	5	1	—	—	10
Constables .	16	10	1	—	—	—	27
Totals .	18	12	6	4	1	1	42

Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY REPORT FOR 1970

General

The extension of the Power Station to provide for one additional 1,183 kW set immediately and for provision for a further set when required later in the decade together with accommodation for an extensive High Tension distribution board was completed in July.

A contract was placed in June for a new 1,183 kW Diesel alternator which is now under manufacture in the U.K. and should be operational by June 1971.

The new Electricity Ordinance draft in 1969 was passed by the Legislative Council and received assent on 16th July, 1970. Electricity Rules complementary to and in amplification of this Ordinance were approved by Executive Council but at the close of the year had not been gazetted.

The new Electricity Ordinance as well as laying down legislation covering all aspects of Generation, Distribution, Sale and use of Electricity in the Territory both for Government and private owned installations also makes provision for an Electricity Board. This Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Electrical Engineer had not been appointed by the close of the year.

Due to the lateness in the year in obtaining approval to the final stages of the new Legislation it was not possible to commence its implementation in the current year.

Little interest by private enterprise in the manufacture of ice has been noted in spite of Government's intention to close the Ice and Cold Storage Plant at the end of 1971.

The report by the firm of consulting Accountants on the Department's Tariffs structure commissioned last year was received and this indicated that on the present anticipated growth and in view of the estimated total capital cost of the undertaking (\$3,250,000) it would not be possible to make any worthwhile changes in the existing tariff till about 1975-1976.

Units Generated

Total units generated during the years 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970 were as follows:

(The percentage increase over the previous years is indicated in brackets below the units generated for each year.)

1967	1968	1969	1970
kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
1,511,561	2,082,581	4,202,825	6,046,643
	(33%)	(103%)	(44%)

Percentage increase in units generated in 1970 over 1969 indicates a slight levelling out in demand. The following table shows the maximum demand during the year:

Maximum Demand

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
975	1,000	1,050	1,040	1,000	1,025	1,140	1,105	1,100	1,120	1,175	1,320

Load Factor

The average load factor for the year 1970 was 61%.

Consumers Connected

The total number of consumers connected to the department's system at 31st December was 1,829. The corresponding figure for 1969 was 1,499, for 1968-847 and for 1967-667 this gives an increase in consumer population of 330 for the year 1970 or an increase of 22% over 1969. This figure also bears out the assumption that saturation point is being reached with the indigenous population. It has been noted that the population of Tortola was assessed at the census in April 1970 as 8,939.

Units Sold

The following table gives the units sold during the past four years with percentage increase in brackets.

1967	1968	1969	1970
kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh
1,294,707	1,777,882	3,603,624	5,091,096
	(37%)	(103%)	(41%)

Average Revenue per unit sold

The following table gives the trend of the average revenue per unit sold:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7.50	7.57	7.56	7.54	7.51	7.41	7.54	7.50	7.56	7.52	7.61	7.59

This gives an overall monthly average for the year of 7.55%.

Units used per consumer

Average monthly consumption per consumer rose from 248 kWh to a maximum of 281 kWh and the overall monthly average for the year 1970 works out at 256 kWh.

Generation

Operation. The installed capacity of generating plant operated by the Department now stands at 3,321 kW which is a decrease of 180 over 1969 resulting from the withdrawal from service of three small 60 kW sets.

Construction. The manufacture of a further generating set of 1,183 kW is well in hand and this set should be commissioned in June 1971. The extension of the Power Station to accommodate these sets and a new 18 panel 13.2 kW switchboard was completed in June. At the same time building space and foundations were provided for a fourth 1,183 kW set when the need arises. The delay in installing the additional set planned for mid December till June 1971 is a result of difficulties over financing the agreed overall plan of expansion.

The Electricity load in the Peebles Hospital had increased to such an extent that the small 20 kW standby set was not adequate for use in an emergency. Opportunity was taken to utilize one of the surplus 60 kW sets taken out of service in the Power Station. A new plant house was constructed at the back of the Hospital and the 60 kW set installed in August. The department is maintaining this set and will operate it in an emergency.

Operational Communication. The department has purchased through Cable & Wireless a main radio transmitter situated at Chalwell with master controls by land line in the office at Road Town and at the Power Station and six Radio Telephones installed on the department's vehicles as well as four Bantam portable sets for use by engineers. Cable & Wireless maintain the system for the department for a yearly charge. The system has proved of considerable value in permitting engineers to keep in touch with staff in the field particularly during the periods of storm and flooding experienced in the last half of the year. The system was of particular advantage during the submarine cable laying operation. The staff have proved to be very apt in the use of the network and with little or no training in its operation quickly appreciated its advantages and make ready use of it in requesting instructions and reporting the extent of damage being investigated.

Stores. The volume of spare parts now required to be held for maintenance purposes in the Power Station, and the increasing amount of materials which also have to be held for use at short notice for line construction and maintenance, are such that the existing system of ordering on Crown Agents Indents individually, against specific work, has proved cumbersome and uneconomical due to the small quantity of material required against each order and the

extended delivery dates. This has restricted the efficient operation of the department to such an extent that it has been necessary to recommend that the department hold and operate an unallocated stores system up to the value of \$140,000 in 1971.

Ice Plant. There has been some small drop in the sale of ice throughout the year. But with the increase in charges which came into operation on the 14th February there has been an increase in revenue. Output dropped from 362 tons in 1969 to 288 tons in 1970.

In view of the Government's decision to cease the manufacture of ice on 31st December, 1971, expenditure on replacement parts has been kept to a minimum. The plant will require considerable nursing to keep it operational till the end of 1971.

Transmission. 13,200 volts system.

By the end of the year the main High Tension System on Tortola with the exception of Wickham's Cay had been completed. During the year a further 14½ miles of High Tension 3 phase and single phase overhead lines had been added to the system and a further 38 single and three phase transformers to a total capacity of 810 kW had been installed and energised.

The overhead catenary cable on Jones Hill has been replaced by one branch of a new twin feeder.

The total length of line now in commission is 41 miles feeding 92 single and three phase transformers to a total capacity of 2,845 kW.

In July four submarine cable crossings with terminal switchgear were laid as follows:

- (a) Sprat Point, Beef Island to Valley Trunk Bay, Virgin Gorda 10,966 yards.
- (b) Casey Bay, Virgin Gorda to Low Bay, Great Camanoe 12,428 yards.
- (c) Potato Bay, Great Camanoe to East End Bay, Little Camanoe 950 yards.
- (d) South Bay, Little Camanoe to Lewis Bay, Tortola 2,616 yards in preparation for the provision of supply to Virgin Gorda and the Camanoes from the Tortola network.

In October heavy thunder-storms and flooding caused extensive damage to the system as a result of which the rebuilding and diversion of a number of lines was necessary. This repair work seriously strained the resources of the department's labour force and unavoidably delayed some new construction. The department's efforts were up to the close of the year further handicapped by the deterioration which had taken place in the condition of the roads which wreaked havoc with the transport.

Transmission. 3,300 volts system.

Steady progress was made in the transfer of load from the 3,300 volts network to the 13.2 kW systems and at the end of the year only 5 transformers with a total capacity of 325 kW remained to be transferred. Work on this transfer should be completed in April, 1971.

Distribution. The distribution system at 120/208 volts was extended by $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles notably in the following areas:

Belmont, Doty, Ballast Bay, Greenbanks, Great Mountain, Brewers Bay, Little Bay, Long Trench, Manchester, Belle Vue, Hope Estate, Little Dicks and Pleasant Valley.

The number of consumers increased from 1,499 to 1,829 in 1970. This increase of 330 included the Malone's Block Plant at Pockwood Pond and increased bulk supply to the Long Bay Hotel.

Street Lighting. At the close of the year there were ninety-seven 150 watt fittings installed on the main road between Fort Burt Hotel and Treasure Isle Hotel; these are all new fittings installed in the latter half of the year. Eighty-two 100 watt fittings are installed in side-roads and at the end of the year work to improve the quality of these fittings was in hand.

Two 80 foot high masts with $4 \times 1,000$ watt lamps on each were installed in the Customs and Dock area in September. These have replaced fifteen 125 watt fittings mounted on aluminium stands which had become dangerous and which were repeatedly being damaged by traffic and cargo handling gear. The new lamps provided an improved standard of illumination for the area.

Long Term Policy

It is anticipated that by mid June, 1971 the Electricity Development Scheme commenced in 1967 will have been carried out as planned.

Water

There are no rivers in the Territory. The only piped water is in the capital, Road Town. The remainder of the population of Tortola and the other islands depend upon shallow wells and/or individual roof catchments and storage tanks.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

General

The Department had an eventful year during 1970. Following a period of increased economic activity during years 1968 and 1969 the

Department was called on to assist in improving the infrastructure of the territory. This included the improvement of roads; the construction of new schools and the provision of a more reliable water supply to the people of Road Town and the country districts. Over 2 million dollars were spent on Capital Works alone during the year in addition to normal recurrent maintenance.

The Wickham's Cay roads, surface water drains and sewerage system were taken over by the Government and many premises in Road Town were satisfactorily connected to the sewerage system. During the latter part of the year a Feasibility Study for providing sewerage systems for Road Town and East End/Long Look was started.

Roads

During the year Development Aid to the extent of \$644,000-00 was received for Roadworks; of this sum \$131,000-00 was primarily for the repair of damage resulting from the October floods. Grants totalling \$106,000-00 were received for the purchase of much needed equipment to mechanise maintenance operations carried out by the Department. A total length of 3.65 miles of road in Tortola and 1½ miles of road in Virgin Gorda were surfaced. Nearly every other road had extensive earthworks carried out to them involving clearing, widening, building up and grading. A length of over 2½ miles of track was bulldozed between Great Harbour and East End Harbour in Jos Van Dyke.

Airfields

The sum of \$45,000-00 was made available by the Development Division for resurfacing the Beef Island Airfield, taxiway and hard-standing. Arrangements were completed to carry out this work in January, 1971.

Building up and regrading the Virgin Gorda airfield was carried out once by the Public Works Department using Public Works Department equipment and on a second occasion by a private contractor.

Sweeping and filling potholes on Anegada airstrip was carried out using manual labour.

Buildings

At the beginning of 1970, 8 new buildings or extensions were under construction. These were completed during the year. In addition work was commenced on another 13 buildings of which 10 were completed in 1970. Major renovation of several Government Offices

was completed during the year and improvements to Primary Schools were in progress. Plans were under preparation for 3 other buildings including the Beef Island Airport Terminal Building.

Water Supplies

The Road Town Water Supply scheme was extended to Treasure Isle Hotel and into the Huntums Ghut housing area. Out of 8 deep wells drilled in Tortola only 4 appeared to yield any appreciable quantity of water. Because of the danger of saline intrusion into the fresh water layers underground, no further work was carried out in developing the wells. It is expected that shallow wells will be the safest source of water in the Territory. The 125,000 gallon reservoir in Long Bush was completed during the year and further loan funds were requested to complete extension of the Road Town Water Supply to Wickham's Cay and Purcell. Six rainwater cisterns were under construction, of which 4 were completed during the year.

Deep Water Berth

Piling and dredging of the basin and filling of the reclamation were in progress.

Wickham's Cay

During the year Wickham's Cay road sewers and storm-drain were taken over by the Government. However, no funds were available to carry out any maintenance work on the drains or outfall which were silting rapidly. Many premises in Road Town were connected satisfactorily to the Wickham's Cay Sewer System but a large number of premises were below the sewer level and continued to discharge raw sewage into the storm drain between the Cay and Road Town.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. The newly reconstructed Beef Island Airfield was opened in April 1969. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200-feet over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building and for further extension of the runway to 5,000 feet. Anegada airfield was opened in July, 1969. The runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommodating air-

craft of 12,500 pounds weight. There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

Scheduled and/or charter services are operated by Leeward Island Air Transport, Prinair, All-Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Winds. Aircraft movements in 1970 totalled 12,767. Construction of a new deep-water harbour in Tortola, to provide deep-water docking for ocean-going ships, was in progress in 1970. In 1969, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). There is also a hydrofoil service to Puerto Rico and St Thomas (United States Virgin Islands). Direct Booker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola.

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continues to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 800 telephone lines in use throughout the Territory and there is also a telex service.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THE *Island Sun*, published weekly, is the only local newspaper. There is a commercial radio station (ZBVI) located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. The station operates at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean. In January 1969, the British Virgin Island Government issued a licence to Dukane, West Indies Ltd. to install and operate a television station. This station was not yet in operation in 1970.

There is no local production or distribution of films. A commercial cinema, the Carib Cinema in Road Town, shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Centre.

The Government issues News Releases informing the press, radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact Sheets and other hand-outs are also available to persons desiring information about the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St Thomas and St Croix, contain over forty British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ}25'N$ and longitude $64^{\circ}30'W$. They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tabago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and

pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metaliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rock. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 95°F. in the shade and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only zerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *Croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of zerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of

Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20% of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the territory, and its environs. A slightly lower percentage live in East End/Long Look, the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Two of these, Guana Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist

industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493, by Christopher Columbus who named them *Las Virgenes* in honour of St Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was

successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lbs. (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of 6 non-elected members—three ex-officio and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished. A Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, was revived in 1950. On the 1st July, 1956, the Leeward Islands Colony was defederated and the Presidency of the Virgin Islands became a colony. The Colony of the Virgin Islands was then administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands by an Administrator. On 31st December, 1956, the office of Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished and the Administrator became Her Majesty's Representative in the colony, directly responsible to the Colonial Office in London.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the British Virgin Islands on the 23rd February, 1966. Since then the 23rd February has been a public holiday to commemorate the Queen's visit. In October of 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to drawing up a new constitution for the Territory, based on the report of a constitutional commissioner (Miss Mary Proudfoot).

In April of 1967, a semi-ministerial form of government came into effect, under the terms of the new Constitution. The Administrator retained his responsibilities for defence and internal security, external affairs, the administration of the courts and the public service, but was required to seek the advice of Executive Council on nearly all matters.

Following are some of the important dates in the Territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil Government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.
- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1838 Abolition of slavery.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature reconstituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959, and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative.
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March, 1967, bringing ministerial government into effect.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I. No. 833), made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2. chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands

Colony (Antigua, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967. The new constitution came into effect in April 1967 and provides for the first time for a ministerial system. The Administrator remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Administrator as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Administrator as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visited the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

A General Election was held on 14th April, 1967, and the United Party secured four seats, the Democratic Party two seats and the People's Own Party one seat. The Government was constituted as follows:

Administrator

J. S. Thomson, C.M.G.,
M.B.E.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator (Chairman)

Attorney General (ex-officio)

Financial Secretary (ex-officio)

Chief Minister

*Minister for Natural Resources
and Public Health*

*Minister for Communications,
Works and Industry*

Hon. N. Jacobs

Hon. C. B. Romney, M.A.

Hon. H. L. Stoutt

Hon. I. Dawson

Hon T. B. Lettsome

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Speaker:

Hon H. O. Creque, O.B.E.

*Attorney General (ex-officio)**Financial Secretary (ex-officio)**Nominated Member**Elected Members:*

Hon. J. R. O'Neal, O.B.E.

Hon. H. L. Stoutt;

Hon. I. Dawson;

Hon. T. B. Lettsome

Dr the Hon. Q. W. Osborne

Hon. I. G. Fonseca

Hon. H. R. O'Neal

Hon. E. L. Smith

Local Government

There was no local government organisation in the Territory and little or no interest was shown in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the Territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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Report for the year
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PART I

General Review 1971

ADMINISTRATION

THE affairs of the Territory were administered by Mr D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E., who assumed office of Administrator in March 1971 on the completion of the tour of duty of Mr J. S. Thomson, C.M.G., M.B.E. By an amendment of the Constitution on the 4th August, the post of Administrator was upgraded to the status of Governor and consequently on the following day Mr D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E. was sworn in as Governor of the British Virgin Islands.

POLITICAL

The Territory operates under a Ministerial System of Government which was introduced in 1967. The Governor is responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the Administration of the Courts and Finance, and has reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

General Elections were held on 2nd June, 1971, and as a result the B.V.I. Democratic Party secured three seats, the Virgin Islands Party two seats, and the B.V.I. United Party one seat. One Independent candidate also gained a seat. The Democratic Party form the present government under the leadership of the Hon. W. Wheatley, Chief Minister, with the Hon. H. L. Stoutt, former Chief Minister, assuming the role of Leader of the Opposition.

INTER VIRGIN ISLANDS CONFERENCE

Relations between the British and U.S. Virgin Islands continued to be cordial. Two meetings were held and visits exchanged between the Governors and other senior officials for discussion on matters of mutual interest. There are suggestions for setting up at an unofficial level an eight-man committee consisting of four representatives from either group to examine possible areas of cooperation and to put forward proposals for the establishment of a joint deliberative body to deal with these matters as well as to advise on its terms of reference.

THE ECONOMY

The year 1971 saw a further slowing down of economic activity following the recession of 1970. Construction activity was considerably reduced from the high levels of 1968 and 1969, although the Territory's second largest hotel was completed on Peter Island in December. Plans were also made for hotel development on Virgin Gorda and tourist/residential development on Beef Island. Work was completed on six new buildings for Government primary schools and some improvements and extensions to the B.V.I. High School. Two new medical clinics were opened and substantial road repairs and improvements were undertaken. The electricity supply system was extended to the island of Camanoes and most locations on Virgin Gorda.

The Government's local revenue showed a slight decline from \$3.14 million to \$3.05 million, reflecting the recession in the economy following the average annual increase in revenue of 37% over the preceding three years. Recurrent expenditure increased from \$3.45 million to \$4.02 million, mostly for the completion of the electricity extension scheme and the public debt attributable to this scheme. The deficit was again met by Grant-in-Aid from the U.K. Government. Capital expenditure was reduced by \$1 million to \$2.3 million, following the high level attained in 1970.

The recession in economic activity was further evidenced by the stabilisation of the level of imports and the net emigration of expatriate workers. The total value of bank loans fell by 6.5% while time deposits fell by 9%. A number of construction companies left the island and in March 1971 it was estimated that the construction labour force had dropped by as much as one-half from the April 1970 level. The cost of living continued to rise as in the preceding years. It is estimated that prices increased by a figure in the region of 6½% compared with the annual average of 4½% over the preceding

three years, although the level of house rents was reduced during 1971 and this would have lowered the increase to rent-payers.

By the end of the year there was some renewal of confidence being felt and it was anticipated that with the Wickhams Cay Report and development at Beef Island, Virgin Gorda and at Peter Island some economic progress could be made in 1972.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Until recently it was generally believed by the inhabitants that they could best help their native land by leaving it. People acted on that belief; a whole way of life developed around this urge to migrate, and this has resulted in the very slow population growth within the past few years. The effect of this migration is that a fair proportion of the money in circulation is generated by remittances from relatives of local residents living abroad, who are concerned above all else about maintaining their identity as Virgin Islanders. The events of 1971 and former years have not brought any fundamental changes in attitudes or values. Physically the islands have changed; most of the amenities one associates with life in a modern community are now available, and to that extent the standard of life has improved. A subsistence on agriculture has changed to subsistence on tourism and for the average Virgin Islander his means of earning a living has changed but not the nature of his economic role. A large proportion of British Virgin Islanders are landowners and a family that does not own 2 acres of land is rare. To them the land has become more than the basic means of production; it is a symbol of their independence and the key to that independence.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The number of pensionable and contract Civil Servants increased from 228 in 1970 to 342 in 1971. Many British Virgin Islanders joined the Civil Service for the first time and many ex-Civil Servants returned to employment in the Public Service. The role on the establishment is in the range of 342 (including contract Civil Servants).

HONOURS

On the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday the following awards have been made:

To be a Knight Bachelor: Mr James Olva Georges, O.B.E.

To be a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Lawrence Spedman Rockefeller.

To be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Alford Everett Penn, B.E.M.

Mr Georges has been the first British Virgin Islander to have been so honoured by Her Majesty the Queen.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A CENSUS was taken in 1970, and the final figures are distributed as follows:

Tortola	8,939
Virgin Gorda. . . .	1,025
Anegada	290
Jost Van Dyke	124
Other Islands. . . .	106
	<hr/>
	10,484
	<hr/>

A breakdown of the figure for Tortola is as follows:

Road Town	2,183
East End/Long Look	1,847
The rest	4,909
	<hr/>
	8,939
	<hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

THE Non-Belongers (Restriction as to Employment or Occupation) Ordinance (No. 5 of 1969) remains the operative law under which work permits are issued to expatriates resident in the Territory since 1st January, 1962. A total of 2,090 work permits to engage in employment were issued or renewed and 101 work permits were issued to engage in business in the Territory. The following basic requirements for work permits continue in effect:

- (1) The unavailability of British Virgin Islanders for the particular job required;
- (2) Satisfactory police and health certificates;

- (3) Immigration Bonds certifying that funds are available for repatriation purposes, if it becomes necessary.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance (No. 1 of 1953) provides for a proportion of hotel employees to be expatriates, since certain posts which require skills or technical ability are not available locally. There is legislation, the Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, which sets out the procedure for wage fixing in the Territory. Section 2 of the Act (No. 21 of 1937) states *inter alia*:

- (1) Whenever the Governor deems it expedient that steps should be taken to regulate the wages paid in any occupation in the Colony he may, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint an Advisory Committee to investigate the conditions of employment in such occupation and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives of employees and such other members as the Governor may deem fit.

The implementation of minimum wages is an instrument of overall economic and social policy which ensures the workers a suitable standard of living, and is designed to avert any form of wage exploitation. Government wages are fixed administratively at a level the economy can sustain and at the same time allowance is made for free movement, since bargaining is done on an individual *ad hoc* basis. The system is applied strictly to the construction industry which absorbs most of the economically active male work force. Other industries and services apply wage rates on the basis of the average which obtains at the particular time. Government wage rates applicable to three new categories of workers are as follows:

General labourers	\$8.00 per day
Heavy equipment operators	\$16.00 per day
Skilled workers	\$10.00-\$16.00 per day

There are no organisations of employees and workers in the Territory. A certificate of registration granted some years ago to a trade union was recently cancelled, as it never actually went into effective operation. The onus of responsibility to act as conciliator in the grievance machinery is vested in the Labour Commissioner, duly appointed under the Labour Ordinance (No. 5 of 1950). Fifty labour disputes were recorded for the year 1971.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 1 of 1962) continues to be the operative law governing claims in respect of indus-

trial accidents. No amendments were made to the Ordinance during the period under review.

Not unlike the rest of the British Caribbean, the effects of the economic depression are reflected in the level of unemployment. Some 272 skilled workers and unskilled workers registered for employment as compared with one-third of that number recorded over the years. Government remains the largest employer of labour with approximately 1,335 workers of which 324 are non-establishment daily paid workers. The Construction Industry, Hotel Industry and Commercial Services follow consecutively in terms of man-power.

In the absence of any form of collective bargaining, the conditions of employment are fully negotiated directly with the employer and the worker. (The Labour Commissioner is however authorised by statute to supervise and review the various forms of employment which exist in the Territory.) The conditions of work are in most cases verbal, but may also take the form of a contract of employment. Certain basic principles such as holiday pay and notice of termination ought however to be emphasised.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE BUDGET

UP to the outbreak of the Second World War the British Virgin Islands boasted a balanced budget and invested surpluses in spite of a low standard of services available to the people. The genesis, a few years after the war, of a deliberate policy of putting the budget into deficit to be made up by grants-in-aid of administration and the receipt of Development and Welfare grants from Her Majesty's Government marked a turning point in the finances of the British Virgin Islands.

Continuing the trend of recent years, recurrent expenditure in 1971 showed a marked increase to reach a total in excess of \$4 million compared with \$3.45 million in 1970. On the other hand, local recurrent revenue showed a small decline from \$3.14 million to \$3.05 million, the resultant widening gap being bridged by Grant-in-Aid from Her Majesty's Government. Details of the main heads of recurrent revenue and expenditure in 1971 (unaudited) are given below with comparative figures for 1970:

RECURRENT REVENUE

	1970	1971
	\$	\$
Customs and Excise	1,115,372	1,086,718
Harbour and Wharf Dues	24,077	24,895
Taxes and Licences	834,252	863,278
Fines and Forfeitures	14,228	12,635
Government Departments and Services	185,792	251,679
Post Office	278,911	93,024
Rent of Government Property	62,413	110,698
Interest	21,641	22,015
Miscellaneous Services	158,355	63,688
Electricity	446,236	518,682
	<hr/> 3,141,277 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,047,312 <hr/>

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

	1970	1971
	\$	\$
Administration	258,032	305,283
Legal and Judicial	70,660	80,639
Police and Fire Brigade	200,664	206,007
Finance	726,711	926,924
Audit	15,889	15,511
Chief Minister	127,586	150,327
Legislature	30,769	34,177
Education	615,411	703,570
Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health	139,314	65,350
Department of Agriculture	—	59,660
Public Health	444,894	473,693
Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry	108,638	97,224
Public Works	425,724	478,938
Electricity	284,553	427,158
	<hr/> 3,448,845 <hr/>	<hr/> 4,024,461 <hr/>

The main increases in expenditure were on servicing the public debt (included under the Finance Head) and on electricity, both reflecting the major electric power programme, started three years ago and now drawing to a close, which was financed entirely by local loans. In addition to fairly general increases in expenditure on administrative services, expenditure on education, particularly secondary education, continued to rise.

The drop in recurrent revenue in 1971 was disappointing since the 1971 budget had envisaged an increase over the 1970 total. Receipts from electricity were well up on 1970 as were receipts from several secondary sources but in the slack economic conditions prevailing throughout the year import duties failed to reach the 1970 figure despite an increase in rates of duty during the latter part of the year. Import duties now provide approximately one-third of total local revenue. Post Office revenue, which depends mainly on the number of new postage stamp issues, was also down.

Summary figures of capital revenue and expenditure for the past three years are given below:

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Development Aid . . .	—	1,247,366	1,160,391
C.D. and W. Grants . . .	493,577	—	—
Loans	878,834	1,963,799	823,493
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,372,411	3,211,165	1,983,884
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
 <i>Expenditure</i>	 <i>1969</i>	 <i>1970</i>	 <i>1971</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Electricity Extension Scheme . . .	471,082	1,083,312	991,091
General Development	757,875	2,252,642	1,311,025
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,228,957	3,335,954	2,302,116
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Apart from the electricity extension scheme, expenditure in 1971 centred on roads development, the primary school building programme and buildings for administrative purposes, financed from development grants from Her Majesty's Government. The deep-water berth in Road Town has since been brought into operation and further works are in progress at the port.

Agreement was reached during 1971 on the take-over by the Government from the private development company of the existing works and buildings on Anegada and the reclaimed areas of Wickhams Cay, Road Town. Consultants were commissioned to prepare recommendations for the further development of these areas.

TAXATION

Tax is chargeable at the rate of 3% of total income and an additional 12% after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from

abroad double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the Territory and the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Revision of the treaty with the U.K. is still under consideration. Arrangements also exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer similar reciprocal relief.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE Territory is in a unique currency position, sole legal tender being the United States dollar, although the Territory is part of the sterling area. The currency of the United States of America had been *de facto* currency in general circulation for almost two decades before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself has no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in or out. Special regulations govern the conversion of sterling area currencies into dollars for use in the Territory but every assistance is given to genuine investors to facilitate the conversion of sterling. Applications for such conversions must be made to the Governor who forwards recommended applications to the United Kingdom Exchange Control Authorities for approval. Sterling area conversions which gain such approval may be carried out without payment of the investment dollar premium. Such conversions in 1969 totalled \$6.7 million. In 1970 they amounted to \$2.6 million.

Visitors from the sterling area may cash up to £250 in travellers cheques per month or on each visit to the Territory. They may not, however, operate dollar bank accounts without Exchange Control Approval. There are now four commercial banks in the Territory; the Virgin Islands National Bank (established May 1961), Barclays Bank, D.C.O. (established 1965), the Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969) and the Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968).

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE introduction of direct shipping services with the U.K. in 1968 and certain Eastern Caribbean Countries in 1969, and the effect of devaluation of sterling in 1967, have effected an increase in the proportion of imports originating in Commonwealth countries and the United Kingdom at a time when imports have grown rapidly.

Facilities for the handling of ocean going vessels of up to 600 ft. were being constructed throughout 1970 at an area opposite Purcell Village while freighters continued to anchor midway in the harbour and discharge cargo by means of a lighterage service. The vessels which ply regularly to Tortola are from the Booker Line, sailing from Liverpool, The Royal Netherlands Dutch Line (K.N.S.M.), sailing from Europe, and Atlantic and Florida Lines from the United States of America. When the deep-water harbour project is completed, the present facilities will be available exclusively for the use of passenger traffic.

Chapter 6: Production

Industrial

The main industry of the British Virgin Islands is tourism and its constituent services. Water sports including sport fishing are increasing in popularity. Several world record catches of fish, including the blue marlin, tuna and wahoo, have been made in the territorial waters. There is a considerable amount of construction in progress in the form of hotels, guest-houses and residences in the private sector, while the construction of roads, extension of electricity and water supplies are being undertaken by Government.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Most Virgin Islanders own land, and those who farm it do so individually or as a family venture. A number of self-employed persons throughout the Territory engage in fishing, both for home consumption and export to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands. Agriculture is, however, generally declining.

Agricultural Department

The total expenditure of the Department for 1971 was \$58,000, a 9% decrease over the 1970 figure of \$63,950.

Due to the departure of the Livestock Officer late in 1967, the two divisions of the Department, namely Livestock and Crops Divisions, have since been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Agriculture. The staff includes four agricultural officers, one forestry officer, one Executive officer and two clerks.

The activities of the Department continue to include: the provision of planting material for crop husbandry, the improvement and

extension of pastures, the protection of forest and conservation of soil and water, the encouragement of fishing largely through the medium of a Loan Scheme, and the fostering of livestock production by providing breeding stock to farmers and encouraging good animal husbandry.

Weather Conditions

The total rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1971 was 52.09 inches, as compared with 62.02 inches in 1970. (The heaviest showers were experienced from October to December.) The highest daily rainfall recorded was 3.30 inches on the 7th October.

A statement of monthly rainfall figures of the years 1965-71 as recorded at the Agricultural Station, is set out below.

RAINFALL 1965-1971

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
1965	1.68	0.49	0.66	4.08	11.61	2.92
1966	4.34	1.91	1.99	7.54	1.28	2.58
1967	1.36	2.63	0.45	0.30	4.03	3.44
1968	1.98	2.75	2.56	2.28	3.02	5.00
1969	3.61	7.77	0.82	0.62	16.28	4.12
1970	1.98	—	2.49	4.90	4.90	2.40
1971	4.96	3.18	1.73	4.14	6.28	2.81
<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
4.11	4.77	4.43	5.53	3.99	4.05	48.32
5.63	4.06	6.29	5.64	5.38	3.85	50.59
2.33	2.43	2.60	6.26	7.29	1.70	34.82
3.48	2.12	5.87	8.17	7.95	6.64	51.82
3.13	7.46	3.53	5.66	11.57	2.54	67.11
4.13	2.55	4.45	20.10	9.09	8.63	65.62
1.91	5.33	3.25	8.04	5.45	5.01	52.09

Agricultural Production

The production of fruits and vegetables is encouraging. Farmers are becoming more aware of the need to increase production both

for local consumption as well as for export. In an attempt to stimulate the production of food locally, it is intended to embark on a food crop production project at Paraquita Bay. In this connection a useful and encouraging report has been submitted by Dr Forde, Agronomist, University of the West Indies (U.W.I.) who made a study of the food crop potentialities of the area and his recommendations are being favourably considered for adoption.

Animal Husbandry

The Department of Agriculture continues to assist by way of loans for pasture improvement and the distribution and/or sales of planting material.

The increase in local consumption of meat has resulted in the greater production of livestock to meet the demand, consequently resulting in a slight decrease in the export of livestock.

During the year, livestock owners kept a constant watch for Screwworm Infestation which attacks cattle, goats and pigs. A regional campaign for screwworm eradication initiated by the Veterinary Authorities in Puerto Rico was introduced into the British Virgin Islands on a cooperative basis. Generally the health of the livestock has been satisfactory. It is hoped that a Livestock Officer will be appointed shortly, and that he will play an important part in the future success of the livestock industry.

Agricultural Shows were held during the year at Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Tortola. These Shows were held annually and have proved extremely useful, both in the way of competition among exhibitors as well as by affording visitors the opportunity of seeing what is or can be produced in the British Virgin Islands.

Forestry

Forestry was carried out under the control of the Government and a voluntary body known as the "National Parks Trust". While both the Government and the National Parks Trust shared common views toward the promotion of forestry, their energies were channelled along slightly different avenues. Government concentrated on:

- (a) the supervision of previously declared "water areas" along water courses and springs;
- (b) the encouragement of tree planting on steep slopes or land considered as unsuitable for general agriculture;
- (c) the production of tree seedlings for distribution to farmers and land owners; and
- (d) the establishment of orchards near to "water areas".

On the other hand the energies of the National Parks Trust were directed towards the improvement of existing park area at Mount Sage. This was the responsibility of the Government Department of Agriculture from commencement of work on the site in 1955 until it was transferred to the Trust in 1959.

Nine hundred trees, most of which were hybrid mahogany, were planted and have shown satisfactory progress. The primeval rain forest, approximately twenty-two acres of park area, is made up of trees of rare species and sizes. This forest is very carefully kept and serves as a tourist attraction.

SURVEYS

Field parties from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys were in the territory during the period 1969–71. They were engaged primarily on the breakdown of the major triangulation to lower order and the survey of control traverses along the roads using a DI 10 Distomat. Senior staff of the Directorate of Overseas Surveys Party and of the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration Project's Team provided valuable technical advice and assistance to the Ministry.

Complete air photographic coverage of the whole territory was undertaken by Kemps Aerial Surveys Ltd in February 1969—the first complete coverage since 1953. The contract was for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys which by the end of 1971 had produced 30 large-scale sheets at 1:2,500 scale of parts of Tortola and Virgin Gorda. This mapping is in addition to the six coloured printed sheets at 1:25,000 scale, a composite at 1:100,000 and a miniature at 1:200,000 currently available.

Legislation was introduced in 1970 preparatory to the introduction of a systematic and comprehensive cadastral survey and land adjudication project throughout the territory. The object of the Land Adjudication Ordinance, 1970, was to facilitate the demarcation, recording, and adjudication of rights over land. Once the adjudication process is completed the holding of land and dealings in land are subject to the Registered Land Ordinance, 1970. This work is being undertaken by the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration Project Team financed from British Technical Assistance funds.

LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

The demand for land for use as home sites continued in 1971. Many of the interested parties were non-British Virgin Islanders and consequently were required to obtain licences under the Aliens Land

Holding Regulation Act in order to hold land in the Territory. During the year 68 such licences were issued.

During the year under review the Government acquired the interest of Wickhams Cay Limited and the Anegada Development Corporation at a cost of U.S. \$5.8m.

In September 1971, Shankland Cox and Associates, a firm of Economic Consultants, were appointed by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to undertake a study of development possibilities of both areas of land. The Consultants submitted their draft report on Wickhams Cay in December 1971. This identified the major problems requiring solutions, made a quantitative assessment of the uses for which the cay might be a suitable location and proposed an outline development plan. A draft report on Anegada was in preparation but was not completed at the end of the year.

MINING

Interest by prospective investors in the mineral potential of the Territory continued during 1971. The Mining Bill and the Petroleum Mining Bill were in process of preparation at the end of 1971.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

AT 31st December, 1971, there were 1,913 children enrolled in the primary schools with 81 teachers to look after them. At the same time there were 745 children at the secondary level with a staff of 45 making a grand total of some 2,658 children and 126 teachers in the territory.

Education remained in 1971 under the portfolio of the Chief Minister.

Advisory Bodies

(i) The Board of Education.

The Minister is advised by a Board of Education (of which he is Chairman). The Board has power to make Regulations dealing with all matters affecting education in the territory, with the proviso that all Regulations so prepared shall have no force or effect until they have been approved by the Governor in Council.

- (ii) The B.V.I. High School Committee advises the Minister on matters concerning the High School but has very limited executive powers.
- (iii) The Primary Schools Commission is advisory to the Minister but has powers to deal with all questions of staff management and discipline in primary schools in accordance with Regulations made under the Ordinance.

The Chief Education Officer is Chairman of each of these Committees and also Secretary of the Board of Education whose Chairman is the Chief Minister. In this way the activities of all three bodies are coordinated with one another and the Ministry.

The staff of the Education Department was increased by the addition, with effect from 1st May, 1971, of an Education Officer particularly concerned with teacher training, and from 3rd May, 1971, of an Evening Institute Organiser, provided under Technical Assistance terms, who was able to take over the Further Education classes and to give valuable advice and help in general administrative matters to the Education Department.

Major Educational Developments in the Caribbean that concerned the B.V.I.

- (i) During the year discussion continued on the need for setting up a Caribbean Examination Council and a Council of Legal Education. At a conference of Commonwealth Caribbean Education Officials and University Representatives held in Antigua on 26th and 27th April, 1971, which was attended by the Chief Education Officer, it was agreed to examine the administrative, technical and financial provisions for the establishment and operation of the Council so that action could be taken to bring about the establishment of the Council without delay.
- (ii) At a later conference held in Montserrat, 22nd-26th November, 1971, attended by the Chief Minister and the Chief Education Officer, it was agreed in principle by all those participating to support the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council subject to ratification by the various Governments.

STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION

Primary Education

School attendance figures for 1971 show a high average percentage of attendance by the 1,913 children enrolled in the primary and post

primary sections of the primary schools. The proportion of teachers to pupils, 81 to 1,913 is 24:1; but only 34 of 81 (42%) of the teachers are trained and many are inexperienced. However as 19 teachers are away on training courses there should be an early improvement in the position.

Teacher Training—Local

The U.W.I. Inservice Course continued with 8 teachers completing the course and being successful in their examinations.

The School Survey

A major event of the year was the School Survey which began in November and which will include all the 14 primary schools and the High School. The professional staff of the Department, with the addition of the Evening Institute Organiser, himself an experienced education officer, spent one or more days, depending on the size of the school, seeing classes at work, studying the school syllabuses and the teachers' workbooks, and at the end of the visit having a full discussion with the Principal and staff on matters that emerged from the classwork seen and recorded.

Post Primary Education

Post Primary Education is still given in a few of the primary schools where there is a sufficient number of pupils who are either unable to get easily to Road Town to attend the High School there, or whose parents, after consultation with the Principal concerned, consider that their children, by remaining for an extra period in the school, would complete their primary course more satisfactorily.

CEDO (the Centre for Educational Development Overseas) Maths and Science courses, designed for the 12-15 aged groups, are run at the High School and at St Mary's School on an experimental basis. The teachers in charge of supervising these classes attend special seminars arranged and financed by CEDO.

Private Primary Schools

There are six private unaided schools and three others each of which received a small grant as a Community School. All these schools were included in the Survey of Schools held late in the year. The enrolment of the unaided private schools is 225 (104 boys and

121 girls) between the ages of 2 and 11. They serve a useful purpose in providing education below the normal age of entry to the Government primary schools and depend entirely on fees to pay salaries and overhead costs. Only one private school, that in Carrot Bay, has both primary and post primary sections. One school which has a small infant section offers training in typing to a few adult students.

The B.V.I. High School: Secondary Education

The year 1971 was mainly one of consolidation of the major improvements carried out in 1970. Staff and new pupils settled down more easily as there was no abnormal influx of new pupils in September (unlike the double entry in 1970). Discipline and tone greatly improved.

Staff

The Principal was ably assisted by three Assistant Principals, two of whom are also Heads of Departments, and three other Heads of Departments each of whom is responsible for coordinating the teaching in specified subject areas throughout the school. The Assistant Principals have duties more directly concerned with the administration and planning of the work of the school as a whole.

Of the staff of 45 (as at December 1971) there are 20 graduates, 12 of whom are trained, and 25 assistants, of whom 11 are trained teachers, some seconded from the primary schools. The school was fortunate in being able to obtain, often at short notice, teachers with special qualifications in Physical Education, Art and Electronics. A beginning was made in teaching automobile engineering.

A Norwegian Development Company made a generous grant of \$45,000 of which \$9,000 are for equipment, to provide a new two-storey block which will house a General Shop, an Electronics workshop and an Art Room. There was much disappointment that unexpected delay in building prevented the completion and equipping of this block within the year. Work in Art and Electronics is being done, albeit with difficulty, in other rooms.

Grounds for playing basketball and other games, and netball courts, have been considerably improved.

Pupils

The prefect system has helped to give training in leadership. The House pattern of organisation provides a basis of healthy competition and development of loyalty to a team.

Public Library

The Library Committee met twice during the year. A programme of inservice training was given to staff by the Librarian, and a good deal of reorganisation took place in the physical layout of the library to make the rooms more pleasant and efficient for use and study for young and old readers. A reference and information service was set up, particular emphasis being given to the reference section which is now well patronised.

The Library became a member of the Association of Caribbean University and Research Libraries.

New developments included the introduction of evening hours once a week, a weekly bookmobile visit to the hospital, and the extension of the story hour programme to the out districts. Representations to the Overseas Book Centre resulted in a valuable gift of a wide variety of books. An art exhibition and art contest were sponsored in April. Despite problems of obtaining suitable vehicles, twenty-four runs were made to 13 schools and communities and a total of 2,911 books was circulated. Four radio talks were given; various press releases have kept the public informed of new additions and developments.

Adult Education

Extra-Mural Activities

For the first half of the year extra-mural classes were organised and supervised by the Chief Education Officer, who is the Local Representative of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of the West Indies.

With effect from September new classes began in Dress Making, Woodwork, History and Biology. Classes continued in English (for G.C.E. and L.C.C.), Maths (for G.C.E. and L.C.C.), Spanish, Book-Keeping (Elementary and Advanced), and Typing and Shorthand (Elementary and Advanced). All these classes were held at the B.V.I. High School.

The total class enrolments have been as follows:

January term: 110; April term: 72; September term: 167.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The year of 1971 was one of continuing improvement, particularly in areas which had received little attention in previous years. At the

42 bed hospital, whilst no new additions were made, some refurbishing took place particularly at the labour ward, anaesthetic room and kitchens. The Red Cross Society also did excellent work in repainting and decorating the infirmary. The generous contributions of the Rotary Club and other group and individual sources have been invaluable in the provision of equipment. The new addition to the Nurses Home was completed. Two new clinics were opened and the public health nursing staff increased their activities both in schools and district Children's Welfare Clinics. Environmental sanitation programmes, particularly in areas of garbage removal, water supplies and sewage disposal, have improved.

Plans are under way for a new 60-bed hospital on the existing site. It is hoped that there will be all essential facilities, including casualty, out-patient and dental care centres, which will be a welcomed improvement in the existing conditions.

The death rate remains approximately the same with cardiovascular disease, malignant disease and accidental death being the largest figures, while it is noted that the birth rate has shown a steady rise since 1969 from 21.5 per 1,000 to 30.0 per 1,000.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1970	1971
Still Births . . .	2	5
Live Births . . .	256	262
TOTAL BIRTHS . . .	258	267
Deaths . . .	28	28
		(18 males and 10 females)
Neonatal Deaths . . .	2	3
TOTAL DEATHS . . .	30	31

MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

There were no changes in the doctors on the staff in the department.

Three staff nurses went to Britain for further training in mid-wifery, operating theatre techniques, mental nursing and paediatric nursing.

The Health Department was strengthened by the return of a Public Health Inspector, who completed a four-month course in Food and Meat Inspection in Jamaica.



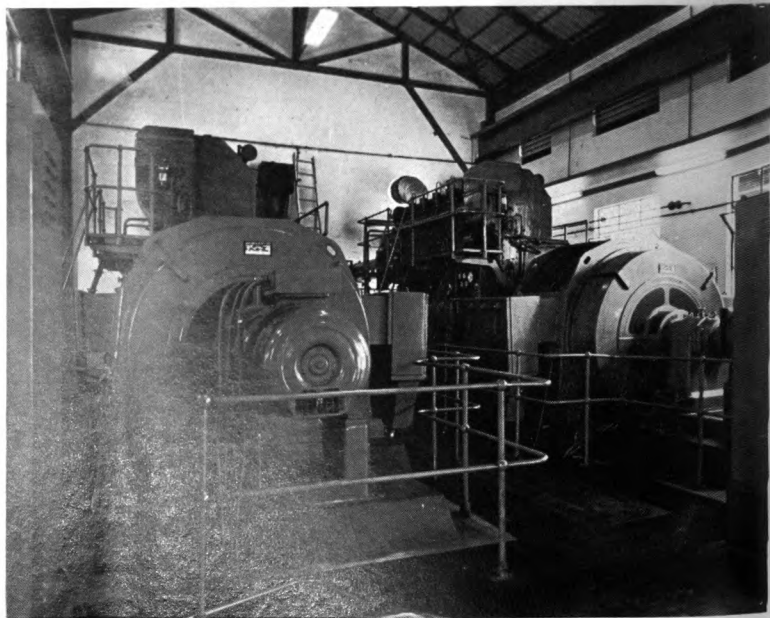
Ferry Boat, Bomba Charger—Runs between United States Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands



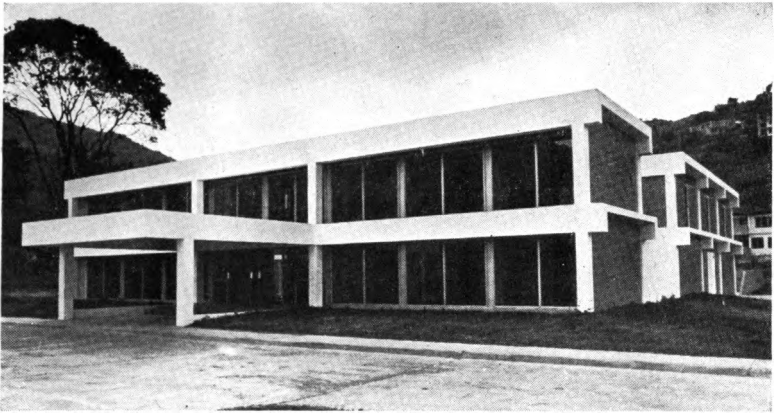
View of British Virgin Islands High School, Road Town, Tortola



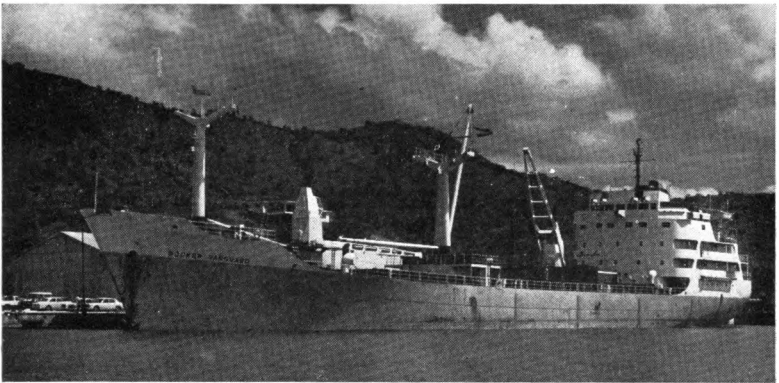
Peter Island Hotel and Yacht Club



Part of Engine Room Power Plant, Road Town, Tortola



New Police Headquarters—Road Town, Tortola



Cargo Boat, Booker Vanguard from Liverpool, England, at Port Purcell, British Virgin Islands



Waterfront—Road Harbour, Road Town, Tortola



Little Dix Bay Marina—Virgin Gorda



View of Wickham's Cay Development Project—Road Town, Tortola

IMMUNISATIONS

The vigorous efforts of the Public Health staff and the great response of the public to the appeal from the department for better health, are seen in the table below:

Vaccination Against Smallpox .	1970	1971
Primary:		
Children	69	136
Adults	—	1
Re-vaccination		
Children	—	55
Adults	269	299
	1970	1971
Children who completed primary immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	993	272
Children who received their "Booster" doses.	43	82
Vaccination against poliomyelitis	—	1,092
Typhoid Fever	—	21
Tetanus Toxoid	—	185
Measles	—	210

HOSPITAL SERVICES

There was a considerable drop in the admissions during 1971 which may be the fruit of the active services rendered by the Public Health Department throughout the Territory.

	1970	1971
Patients admitted	1,130	1,092
Outdoor patients	3,692	3,594
Casualties	—	4,024
Major operations	227	102
Minor operations	126	277
Dental operations	—	252
Deaths	30	31

MATERNITY SERVICES

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics	127	154
New Attendances	158	165
Total Attendances	410	563

SCHOOL HEALTH

A series of visits to both Government and Private schools was made by the Public Health Staff during the year. At the B.V.I. High School,

in addition to routine medical examination, immunisation against tetanus was also carried out. A visit was made to Anegada at which medical examinations were carried out on almost all of the school children.

INFANT WELFARE

During the year it was found possible to hold general clinics three times a week at East End, weekly at Carrot Bay and twice monthly at Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. In addition to these general clinics, infant welfare and antenatal clinics are provided in each district by the resident nurse. Monthly visits are made by a Public Health team for the purpose of immunisation and infant welfare. Areas also served are West End, Sea Cows Bay, Belle Vue and Cane Garden Bay. New clinic buildings were opened during the year at East End, Jost Van Dyke and Cane Garden Bay.

Infant Welfare	1970	1971
Clinics held	205	206
Attendance	2,418	4,708

BLOOD BANK AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES

A small blood bank refrigerator was purchased and a small emergency supply of blood is now maintained. To meet the demand a drive for blood donors was held, great assistance being given by the Red Cross. The final total of volunteers, willing to come on request to donate blood, was most satisfactory and for the first time the transfusion service can be said to be reliable.

MENTAL HEALTH

It has been customary in the past to refer all severely disturbed patients to hospital in Antigua. The availability of this service has been highly appreciated even though the expense of sending patients to Antigua was high. During 1971 it was decided to attempt to treat all mental patients in Peebles Hospital, the availability of the new sedative and tranquilising drugs being the important factor. 21 moderately to severely disturbed patients were admitted to hospital during the year. The condition of the patients is satisfactory and no relapses have been recorded.

PRISON HEALTH SERVICE

The Medical Officer continued to visit Her Majesty's Prison attending the inmates of the Prison.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Meetings of the Board of Health were held at regular intervals, their main objective being the discussion and recommendation of regulations to increase the effectiveness of the Public Health Ordinance. The passage of the Public Health Regulations to control the disposal of house refuse and the control of mosquitoes was a great asset.

DENTAL TREATMENT

There has been a steady improvement in the dental service. The number of items of treatment to school children has been greatly increased. The department offers a much wider range of facilities than ever before; an X-Ray developing room has been added and general anaesthetic sessions are available once a week. Every branch of specialist dentistry is now covered by the present staff.

Chapter 8: Legislation

DURING the year 1971 twenty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislature and forty-one Statutory Rules and Orders were made. The most important Ordinances were:

- (a) The Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, which mainly provided that voters should be ordinarily resident for three years in the Virgin Islands to vote and 5 out of 7 years to be nominated for election;
- (b) The Explosives Ordinance, to make new provisions for the importation, safe storage and use of explosives.

*Chapter 9: Justice and Prisons***JUSTICE**

JUSTICE is administered in the Territory by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court comprising the Court of Appeal and the

High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

The High Court is presided over by a Puisne Judge. It has an original jurisdiction in all matters which are heard and determined by the High Court of Justice in England, a summary jurisdiction whereby the Court hears and determines without a jury civil actions whether of a legal or equitable nature and suits within the civil jurisdiction of the Magistrate in which the debt, damage claimed or the amount or value does not exceed \$840; and in cases where the parties consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$1,200. The Court is held before one Judge.

The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the Territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice sits as the President of this Court. Appeals from the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is also a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council.

General sittings of the High Court in its Criminal and Civil jurisdiction are held during the months of March and October. Special sittings for the hearing of civil cases are also held as necessary. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla normally sits in the Virgin Islands. In September 1970 the joint post of Magistrate/Registrar was divided, and a Legal Assistant was assigned to the Attorney General's Chambers. The Registrar of the High Court is also Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal.

The Magistrate's Court can hear and determine all complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$360 in contract and \$180 in tort. The Territory is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, (Cap. 45) of the Revised Edition 1961 of the Laws of the Virgin Islands. Both the Registrar and Legal Assistant are additional Magistrates of the Virgin Islands.

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance, (Cap. 166), which remained without amendment during 1971. The Service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister of Government.

Prison accommodation remained unaltered during the year 1971. Plans are in hand for a new prison to be built.

Administration and Staff

During 1971 there was no change in the basic administrative structure of the Service, which remained under the Command of the Chief of Police, who is also designated as Keeper of Prisons. The establishment for Prison staff remained unaltered at one Prison Corporal and one Prison Warder.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities**ELECTRICITY***General*

THIS has been an eventful year in the expansion and development of the Electricity Supply Industry in Tortola and the dependent islands. Contracts to the value of One million dollars (\$1 million) were started and virtually completed extending the electricity service to the Valley and North Sound, Virgin Gorda and the Camanoes; in addition, the department's direct labour force constructed many miles of power lines to commercial and domestic developments in Tortola, and the Power Station capacity was increased with the installation and commissioning of a diesel alternator set.

Under the terms of the Electricity Ordinance, provision was made for the establishment of an Electricity Board, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Electrical Engineer.

Units generated

The total Units generated, with earlier years' figures for comparison, are as follows:

	1969	1970	1971
Units Generated (kWh)	4,202,825	6,046,643 (44%)	7,411,778 (22.5%)

Percentage increase over previous year shown in brackets.

Consumers Connected

The total number of consumers connected to the system on 31st December was two thousand, one hundred and seventy (2,170), the increase over the previous year being four hundred and twenty-eight or 23.4%. There is an expected demand in the areas of residential yacht marina developments and condominiums.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads

The expenditure in 1970 on remedial works following the floods had made all roads passable but work on replacing damaged bridges and culverts and on restoring the worst sections continued into 1971.

Works on the Jost Van Dyke Bridge, Jackass Ghut Bridge, Long Bush Ghut drain and Huntums Ghut Bridge were undertaken in 1971. A road to eliminate the dangers at Fort Hill was made possible by the construction of Port Purcell and agreement was reached with the landowners for the works. Completion is expected in 1972 when a slipway is moved to allow the road to go through. Development Aid funds were made available for the complete restoration of the Road Town to West End road (Project 25) and work was started on the worst section in August 1971. By December four miles of road had been completed.

Work on reclamation between Customs House and Government House was started to provide protection for 7,000 yards of fill available from dredging works.

Water Supplies

Country water supplies consist mainly of shallow wells, the ownership of many of which is doubtful, and cisterns built by Government usually with an inadequate catchment. No work was undertaken on cisterns during 1971. However, some pumps provided from United Nations funds were installed on wells—the intention was to reduce the contamination of wells caused by use of buckets for drawing water. Improvement of the Road Town Water Supply was made by the installation of a simple chlorinator. A new reservoir with a capacity of 125,000 gallons was put in use as the old one was cracked and could not be filled to more than 25% of capacity.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE are about forty miles of motor roads in the Territory. The newly reconstructed Beef Island Airport was opened in April 1969. The new extended runway is 3,200 feet long and 90 feet wide, with 200-foot over-runs at each end. The airport is now capable of receiving Avro 748 50-seat turbo-jet aircraft. Plans were announced for a new terminal building. Anegada airfield was opened in July 1969; the runway is approximately 2,000 feet long and capable of accommo-

dating aircraft of 12,500 pounds weight. There is also an airstrip at Virgin Gorda.

Scheduled or chartered air services were operated by Leeward Island Air Transport, Priuair, All-Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Winds. In 1969, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company began a new shipping service to the Territory from London and Amsterdam. The Territory is also served by the Atlantic Lines from New York, and by the Florida Line from Miami (United States). A direct Booker Line freight shipping service has been opened from Liverpool to Tortola. There is also a very reliable daily launch service between the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St Thomas).

Cable and Wireless Ltd. continued to operate the Territory's telephone and telegraph communications. There are approximately 800 telephone lines in use throughout the Territory along with telex service.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Service

THERE is a sole newspaper which is published weekly, *The Island Sun*. ZBVI, a commercial radio station, and the only radio station, operates from Baughers Bay at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean. In January 1969 Dukane Television (West Indies) Ltd. was issued a licence to install and operate a television station.

There is no local production or distribution of films. A commercial cinema, the Carib Cinema in Road Town, shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information and other sources are shown by the Community Development Centre.

Government issues News Releases informing the press and radio and the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact Sheets and other hand-outs are also available to persons desiring information about the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States Virgin Islands of St Thomas and St Croix, contain over forty British Islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25' N.$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30' W.$ They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge at its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipit-

ously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rocks. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87°F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F. at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, that it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too soft to be utilised, particularly for burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the

coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The Flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly croton discolour. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 20 per cent of the population live in Road Town, the capital of the Territory, and its environs. A slightly lower percentage live in East End/Long Look the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Three of these, Guana Island, Peter Island and Marina Cay are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agricultural and livestock raising as a base and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493, by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgenes in honour of St Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1593, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through, the former leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British

Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population shows that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and constitutional government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million lbs. (this includes Anguilla) against 'but 1,000 hogshead of sugar'.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly and Council were abolished and a Legislative Council of six non-elected members—three *ex officio* and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished.

A Legislative Council with elected representatives was re-introduced in 1950. This system of Government continued with minor changes, until 1967 when, under a revised Constitution, the Ministerial System of Government was introduced into the Territory for the first time. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary) one Nominated Member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven Elected Members returned from seven one-

member electoral districts. The Executive Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* Members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister appointed by the Governor as the Elected Member who appears best able to command a majority, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Responsibility for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, Finance and the administration of the Courts rests with the Governor.

Following the decline of the plantation system, the Territory became a society of small farmers and fishermen. A large number of the younger population migrated to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands where employment opportunities were afforded to them particularly after the Second World War, as a result of the development taking place there. In view of this trend and the importance of St Thomas as an entrepot port and a shopping centre, the economy of the islands has been, and still is, closely bound up with that of their American neighbours. The currency in both official and practical use is the United States dollar, the Territory being the only place in the sterling area where this obtains.

In October 1966, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to drawing up a new constitution for the Territory, based on the report of a constitutional commissioner (Miss Mary Proudfoot).

In April 1967, a semi-ministerial form of government came into effect, under the terms of the new Constitution.

Following are some of the important dates in the Territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus.
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the channel which now bears the name of the former.
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch buccaneers.
- 1666 Party of English buccaneers drove out the Dutch.
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda.
- 1717 First Census.
- 1727 First Quaker missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor.
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke.
- 1745 First Anglican missionary arrived.
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola.
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice.
- 1773 Constitutional government granted.

- 1774 Legislature met for the first time.
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look.
- 1789 First Wesleyan missionary arrived.
- 1807 Abolition of slave trade.
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge.
- 1816 St Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate colony.
- 1819 Severe hurricane.
- 1838 Abolition of slavery.
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution; Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts.
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands.
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council.
- 1916 Severe hurricane.
- 1924 Severe hurricane.
- 1950 Presidential legislature reconstituted.
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands colony and establishment of colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959, and the Administrator became The Queen's Representative.
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced from 30th March, 1967, bringing ministerial government into effect.

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

The Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I., No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (495 Eliz. 2. chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) into separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967. The new constitution came into effect in April 1967 and provides for the first time for a ministerial system. The Governor remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of the courts and

finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council is comprised of the Governor as Chairman, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two *ex officio* members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the Territory by the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visits the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

A General Election was held on 2nd June, 1971, and the B.V.I. Democratic Party secured three seats, the Virgin Islands Party two seats, the B.V.I. United Party one seat and an independent candidate one seat. The Government was constituted as follows:

Governor

D. G. Cudmore, O.B.E.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Governor (Chairman)

Attorney General (ex officio)

Financial Secretary (ex officio)

Chief Minister

*Minister for Natural Resources
and Public Health*

*Minister for Communications,
Works and Industry*

Hon. N. O. Jacobs

Hon. C. B. Romney

Hon. W. Wheatley, M.B.E.

Hon. C. A. Maduro

Hon. O. Cills

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Speaker

Attorney General (ex officio)

Financial Secretary (ex officio)

Nominated Member

Hon. H. R. Penn, M.B.E.

Hon. I. Dawson

Elected Members

Hon. W. Wheatley, M.B.E.
 Hon. C. A. Maduro
 Hon. O. Cills
 Dr. the Hon. Q. W. Osborne
 Hon. H. L. Stoutt
 Hon. R. George
 Hon. A. A. Henley

Local Government

There was no local government organisation in the Territory and little or no interest was shown in the subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial weights and measures are used in the Territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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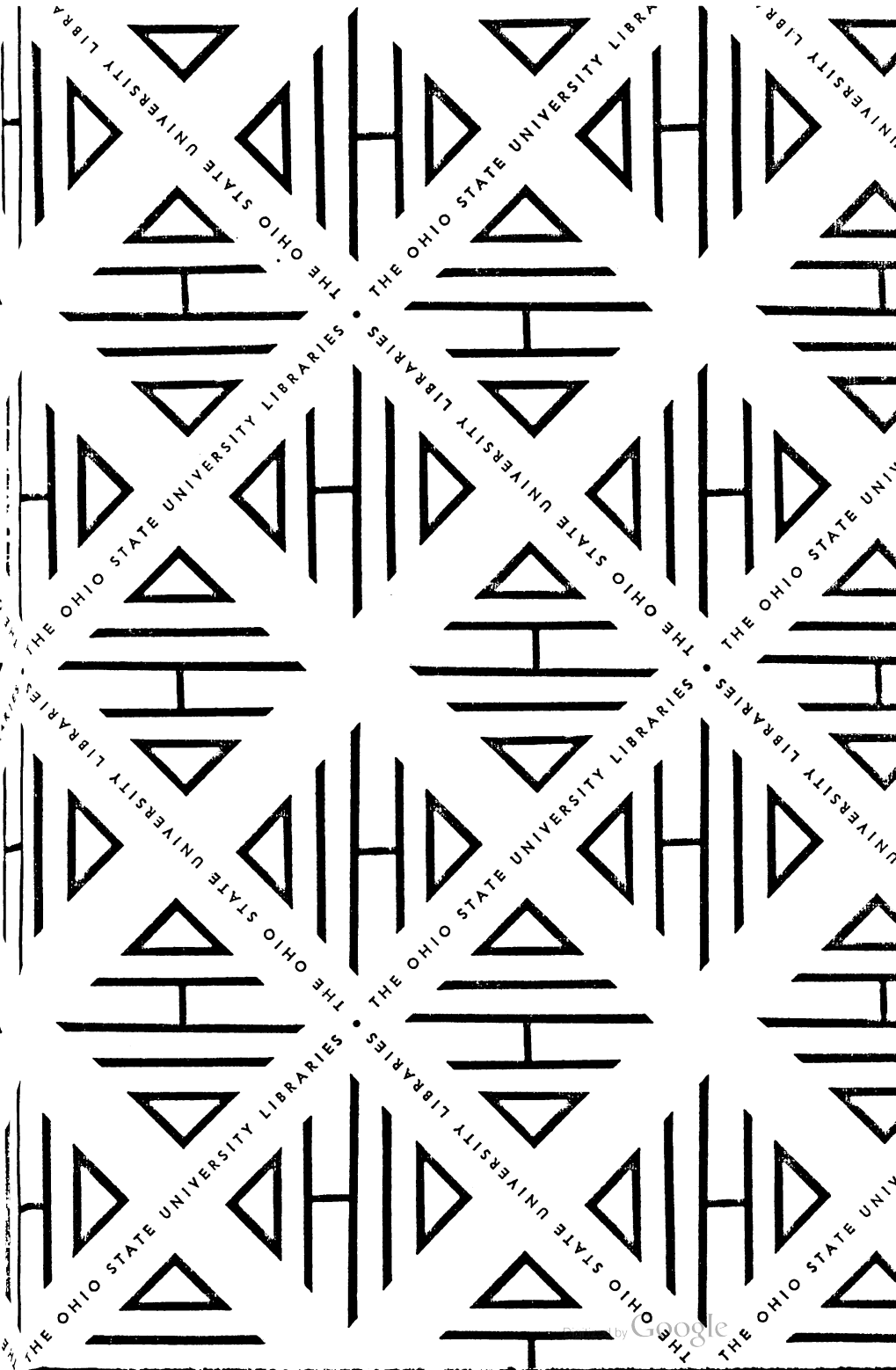
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